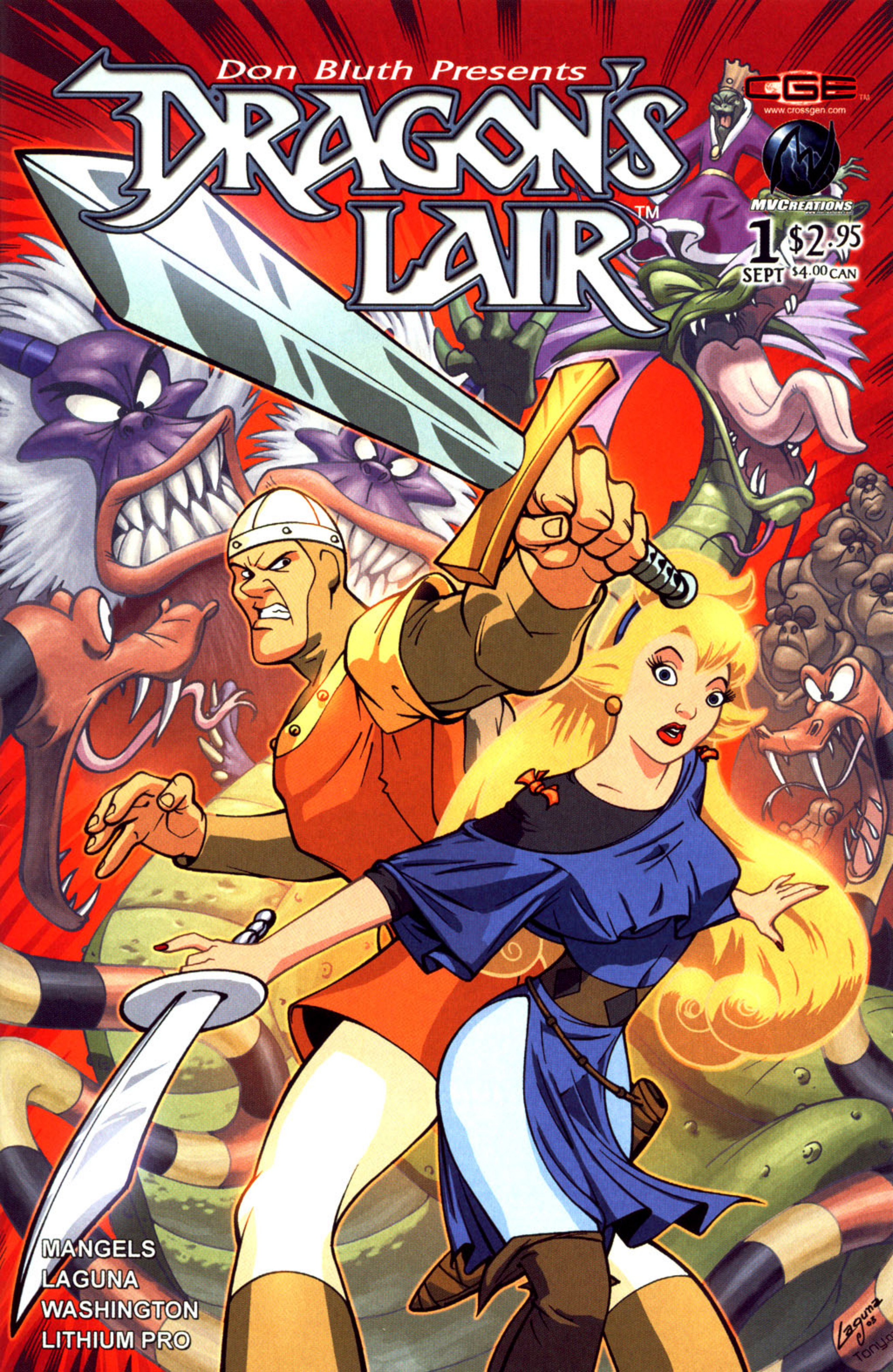

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Travel to a time of Sword and Sorcery; a time of Dragons and Damsels in distress! Welcome to the world of Dragon's Lair!! Follow Dirk the Daring and Princess Daphne as they return from an astonishing adventure in the Free Realms only to be attacked by the great dragon, Singe, and his evil minions. Singe vows revenge against Dirk for killing his offspring, and Daphne is soon caught in the dread dragon's claws. Now, armed with his courage and skill, Dirk must brave the Dark Kingdom and all its evils in order to save the Princess from Singe!

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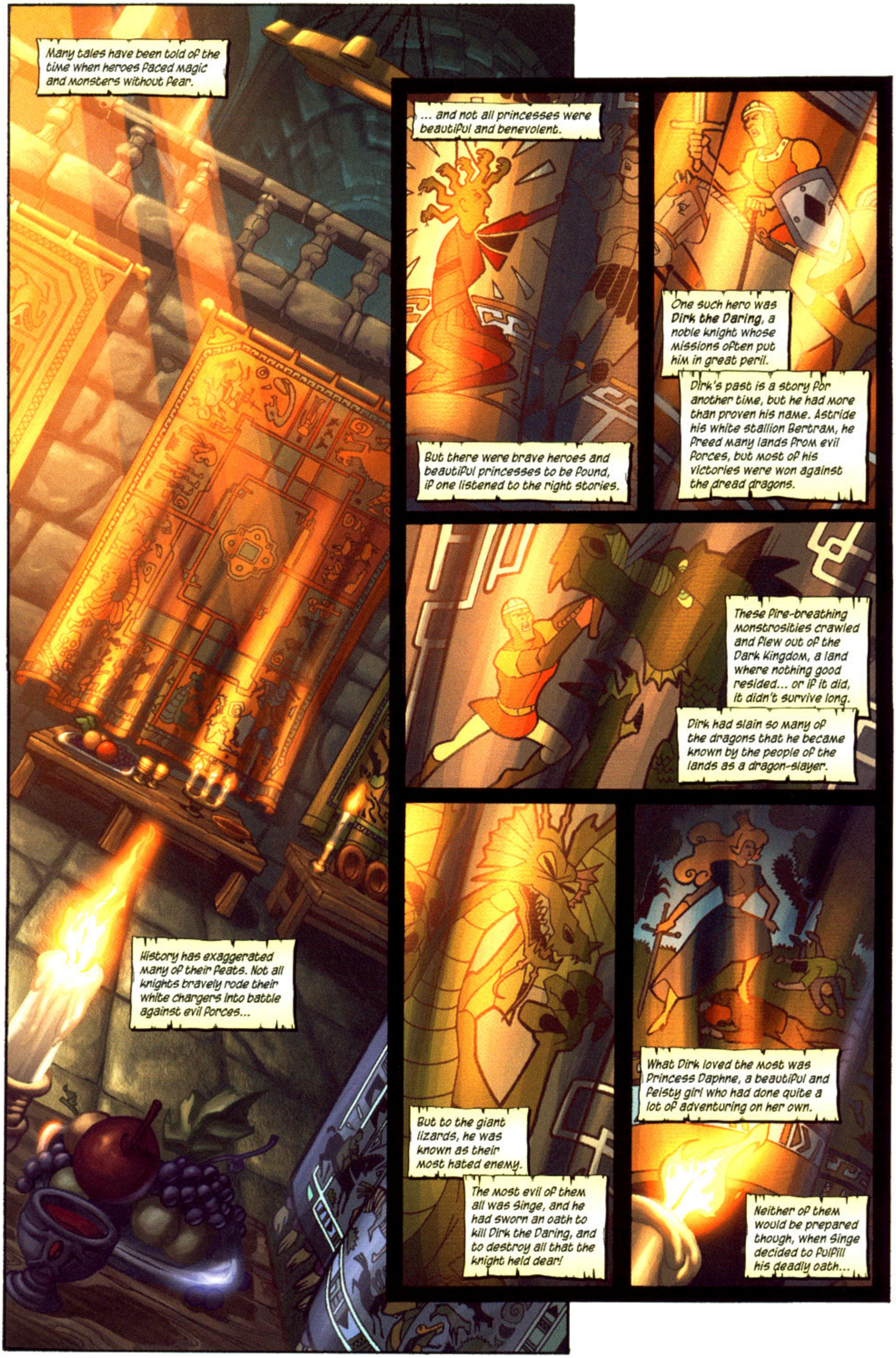
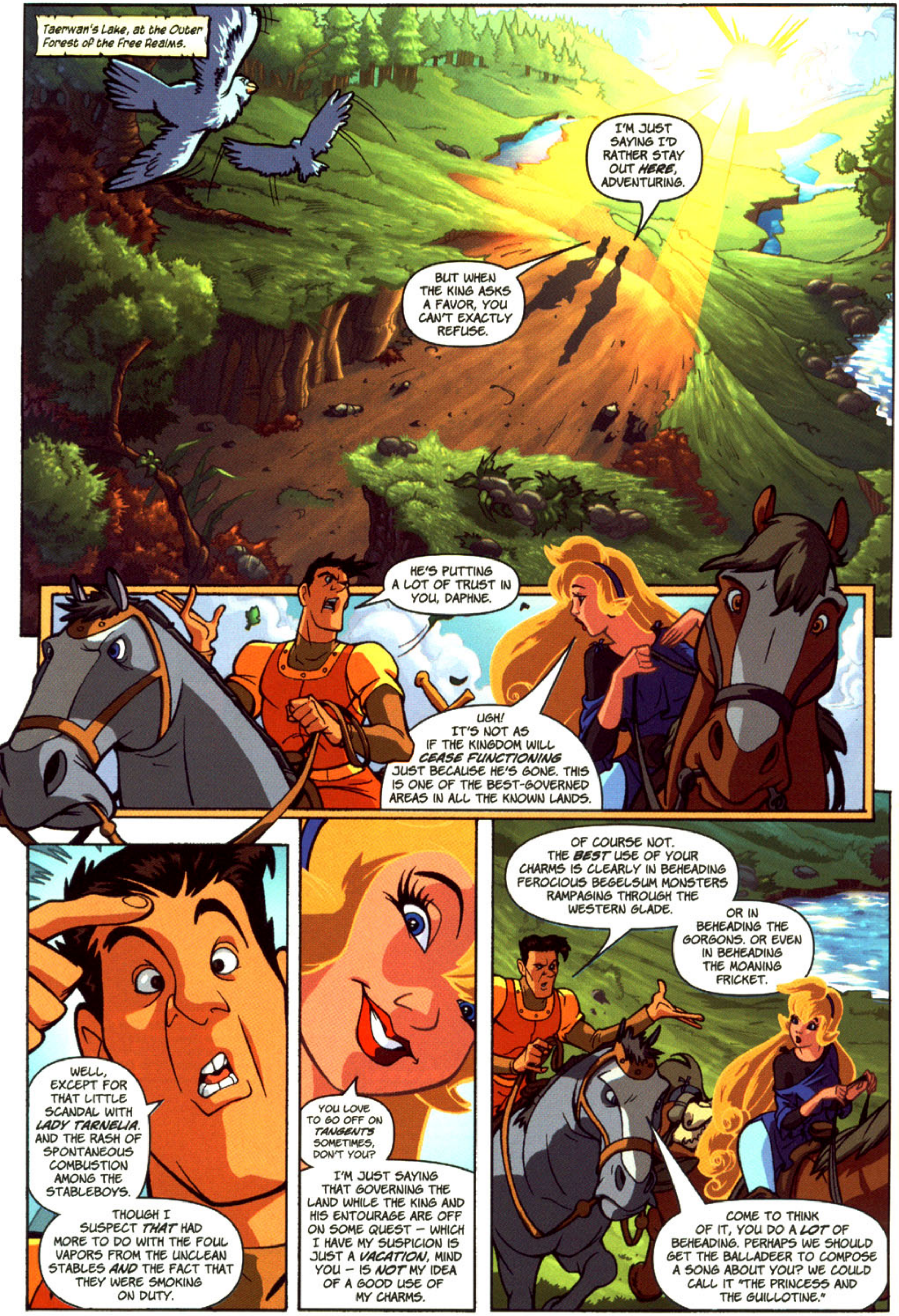
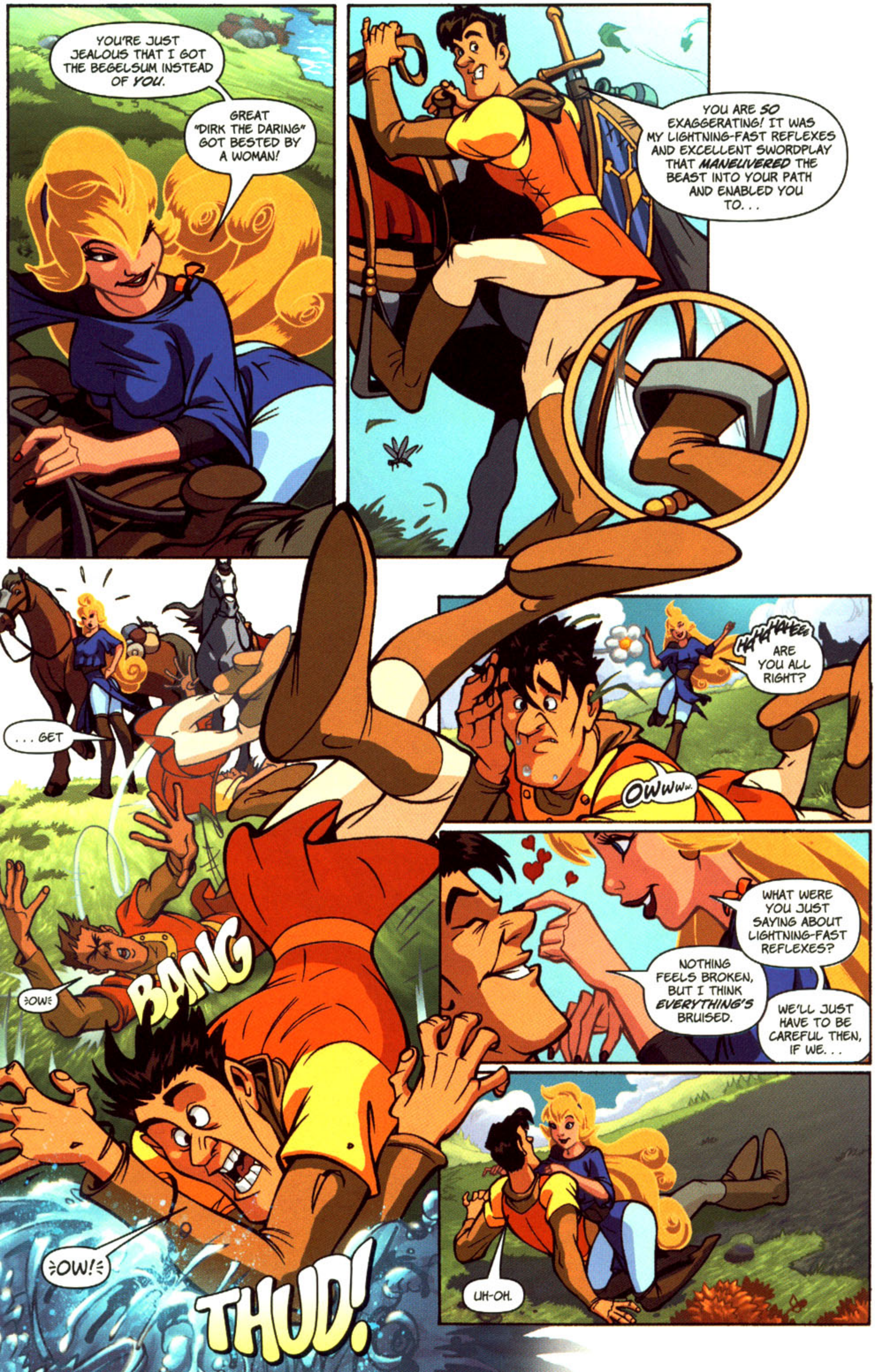
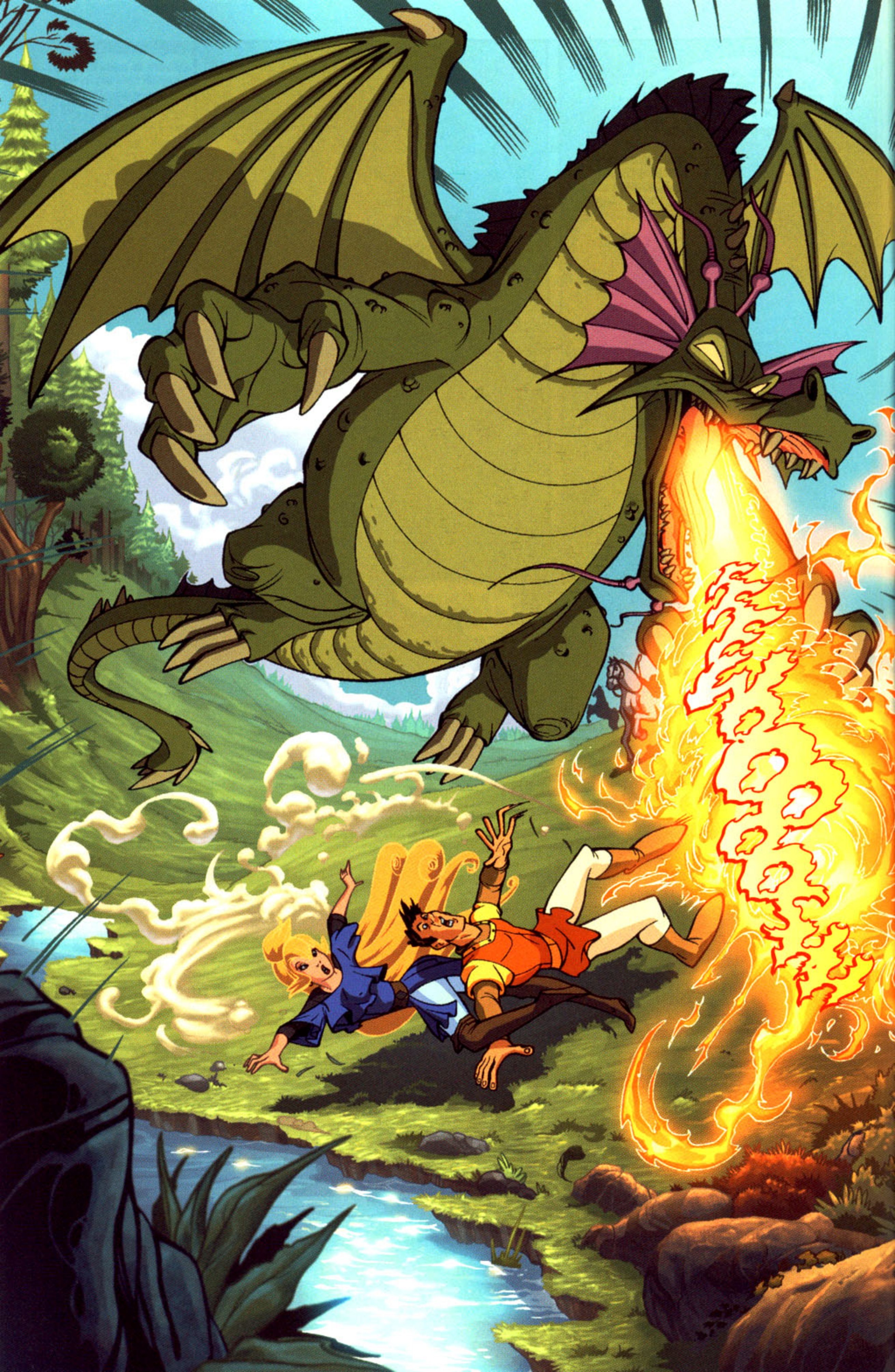
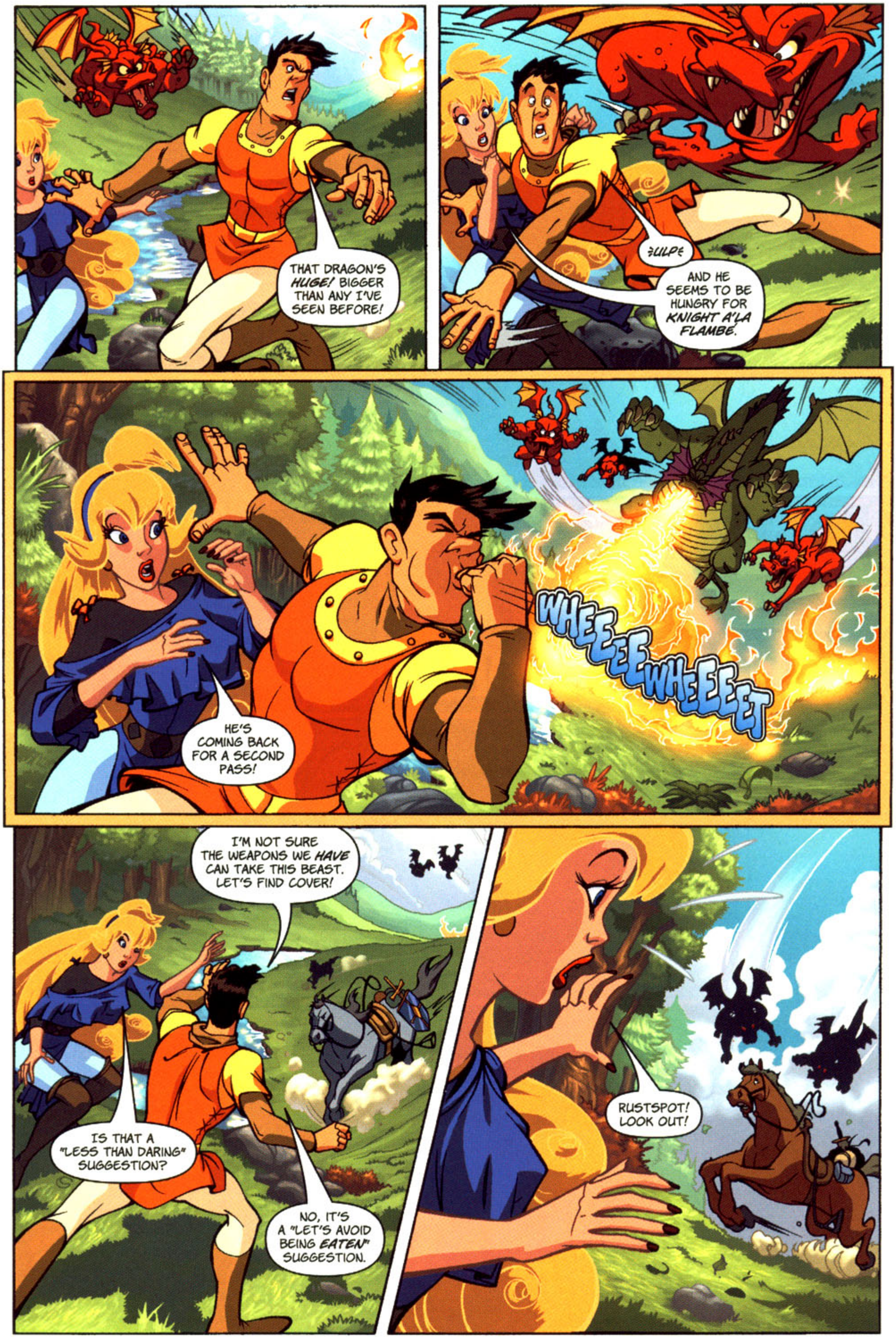
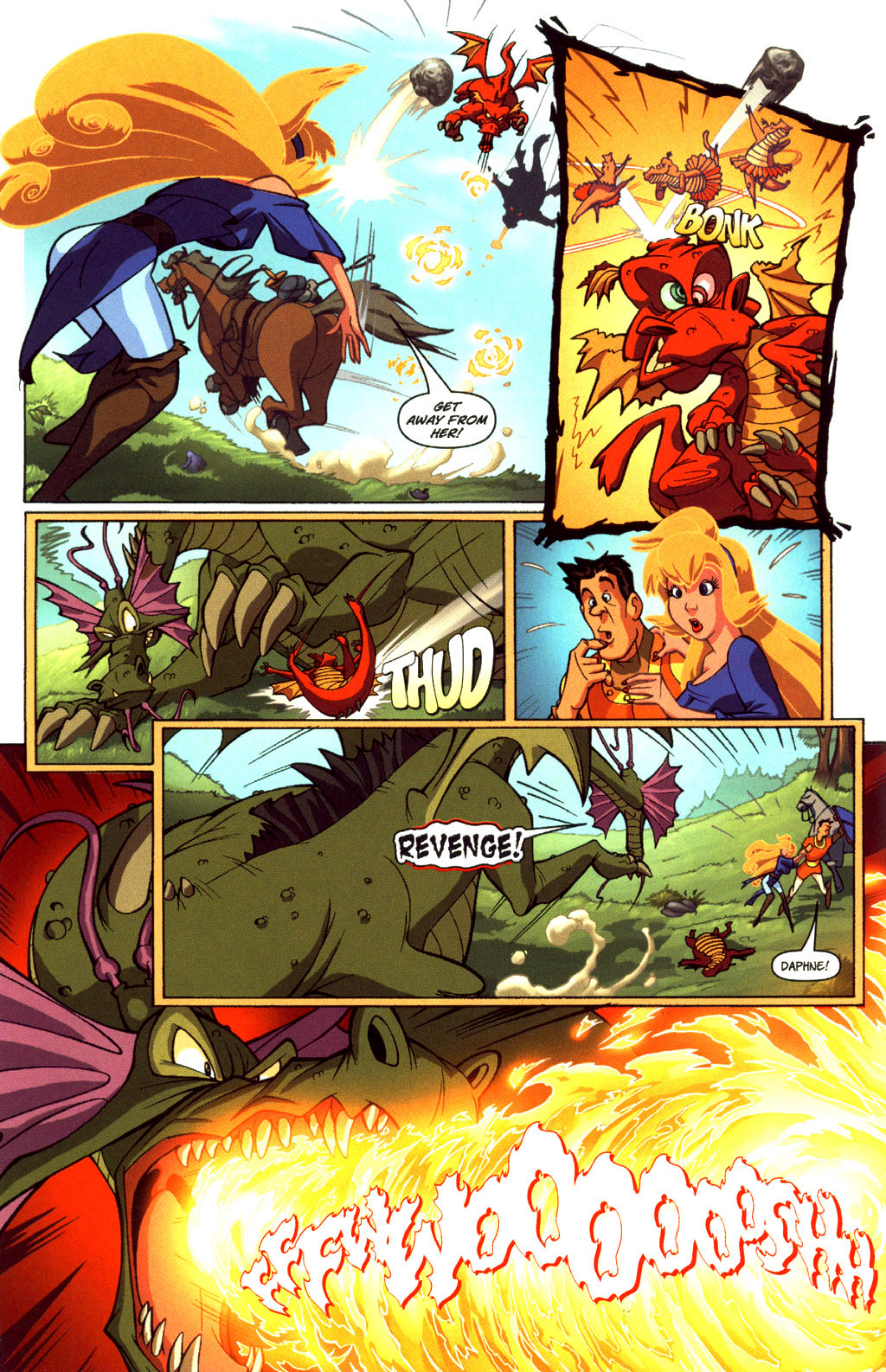

Many tales have been told of the time when heroes faced magic and monsters without fear.
History has exaggerated many of their feats. Not all knights bravely rode their white chargers into battle against evil forces...
... and not all princesses were beautiful and benevolent.
But there were brave heroes and beautiful princesses to be found, if one listened to the right stories.
One such hero was **Dirk the Daring**, a noble knight whose missions often put him in great peril.
Dirk's past is a story for another time, but he had more than proven his name. Astride his white stallion Bertram, he freed many lands from evil forces, but most of his victories were won against the dread dragons.
These fire-breathing monstrosities crawled and flew out of the Dark Kingdom, a land where nothing good resided... or if it did, it didn't survive long.
Dirk had slain so many of the dragons that he became known by the people of the lands as a dragon-slayer.
But to the giant lizards, he was known as their most hated enemy.
The most evil of them all was Singe, and he had sworn an oath to kill Dirk the Daring, and to destroy all that the knight held dear!
What Dirk loved the most was Princess Daphne, a beautiful and feisty girl who had done quite a lot of adventuring on her own.
Neither of them would be prepared though, when Singe decided to fulfill his deadly oath...

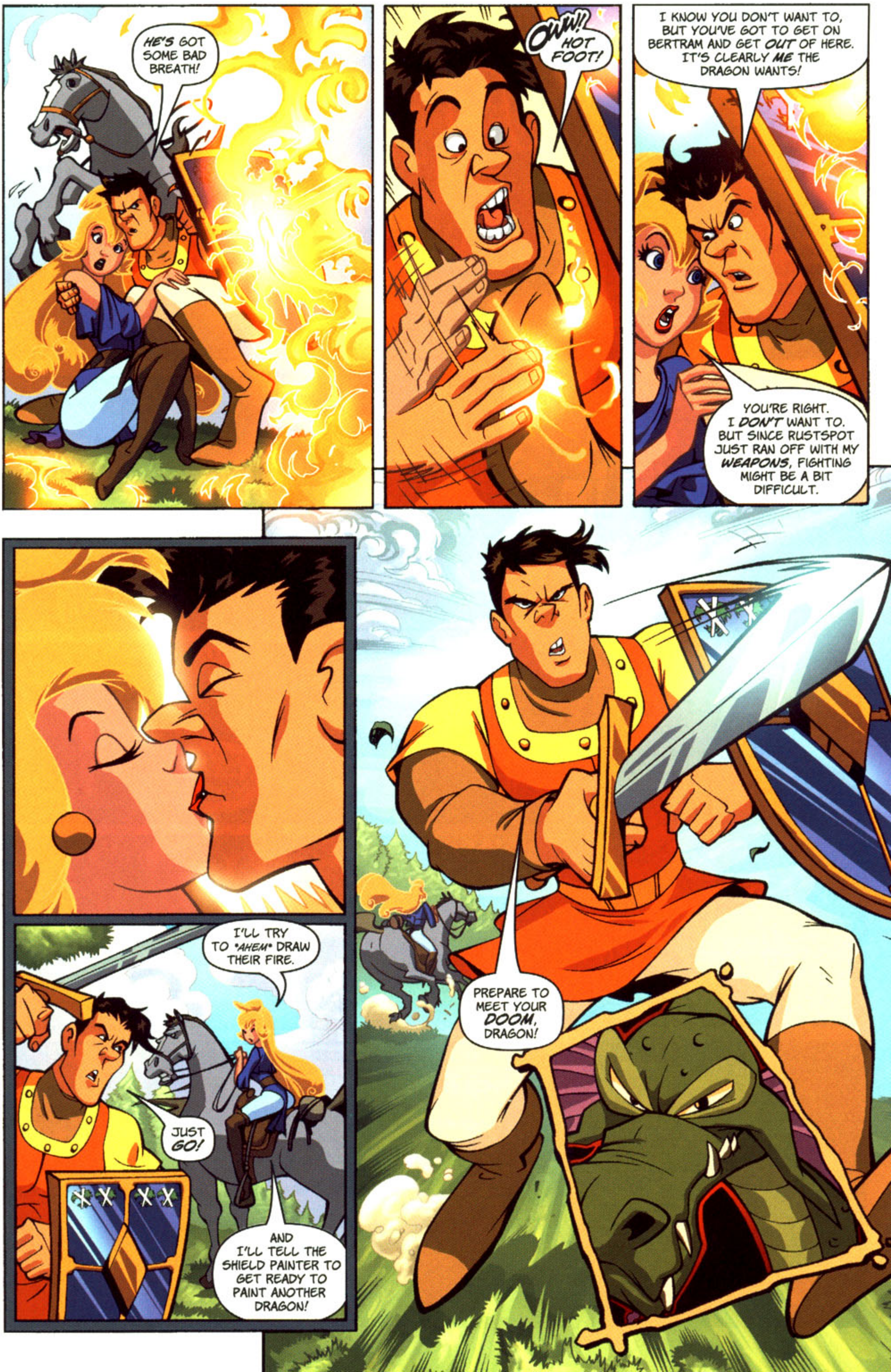

Taerwan's Lake, at the Outer Forest of the Free Realms.
I'M JUST SAYING I'D RATHER STAY OUT *HERE*, ADVENTURING.
BUT WHEN THE KING ASKS A FAVOR, YOU CAN'T EXACTLY REFUSE.
HE'S PUTTING A LOT OF TRUST IN YOU, DAPHNE.
UGH! IT'S NOT AS IF THE KINGDOM WILL *CEASE FUNCTIONING* JUST BECAUSE HE'S GONE. THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST-GOVERNED AREAS IN ALL THE KNOWN LANDS.
WELL, EXCEPT FOR THAT LITTLE SCANDAL WITH *LADY TARNELIA*. AND THE RASH OF SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION AMONG THE STABLEBOYS.
THOUGH I SUSPECT *THAT* HAD MORE TO DO WITH THE FOUL VAPORS FROM THE UNCLEAN STABLES *AND* THE FACT THAT THEY WERE SMOKING ON DUTY.
YOU LOVE TO GO OFF ON *TANGENTS* SOMETIMES, DON'T YOU?
I'M JUST SAYING THAT GOVERNING THE LAND WHILE THE KING AND HIS ENTOURAGE ARE OFF ON SOME QUEST – WHICH I HAVE MY SUSPICION IS JUST A *VACATION*, MIND YOU – IS *NOT* MY IDEA OF A GOOD USE OF MY CHARMS.
OF COURSE NOT. THE *BEST* USE OF YOUR CHARMS IS CLEARLY IN BEHEADING FEROCIOUS BEGELSUM MONSTERS RAMPAGING THROUGH THE WESTERN GLADE.
OR IN BEHEADING THE GORGONS. OR EVEN IN BEHEADING THE MOANING FRICKET.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DO A *LOT* OF BEHEADING. PERHAPS WE SHOULD GET THE BALLADEER TO COMPOSE A SONG ABOUT YOU? WE COULD CALL IT "THE PRINCESS AND THE GUILLOTINE."

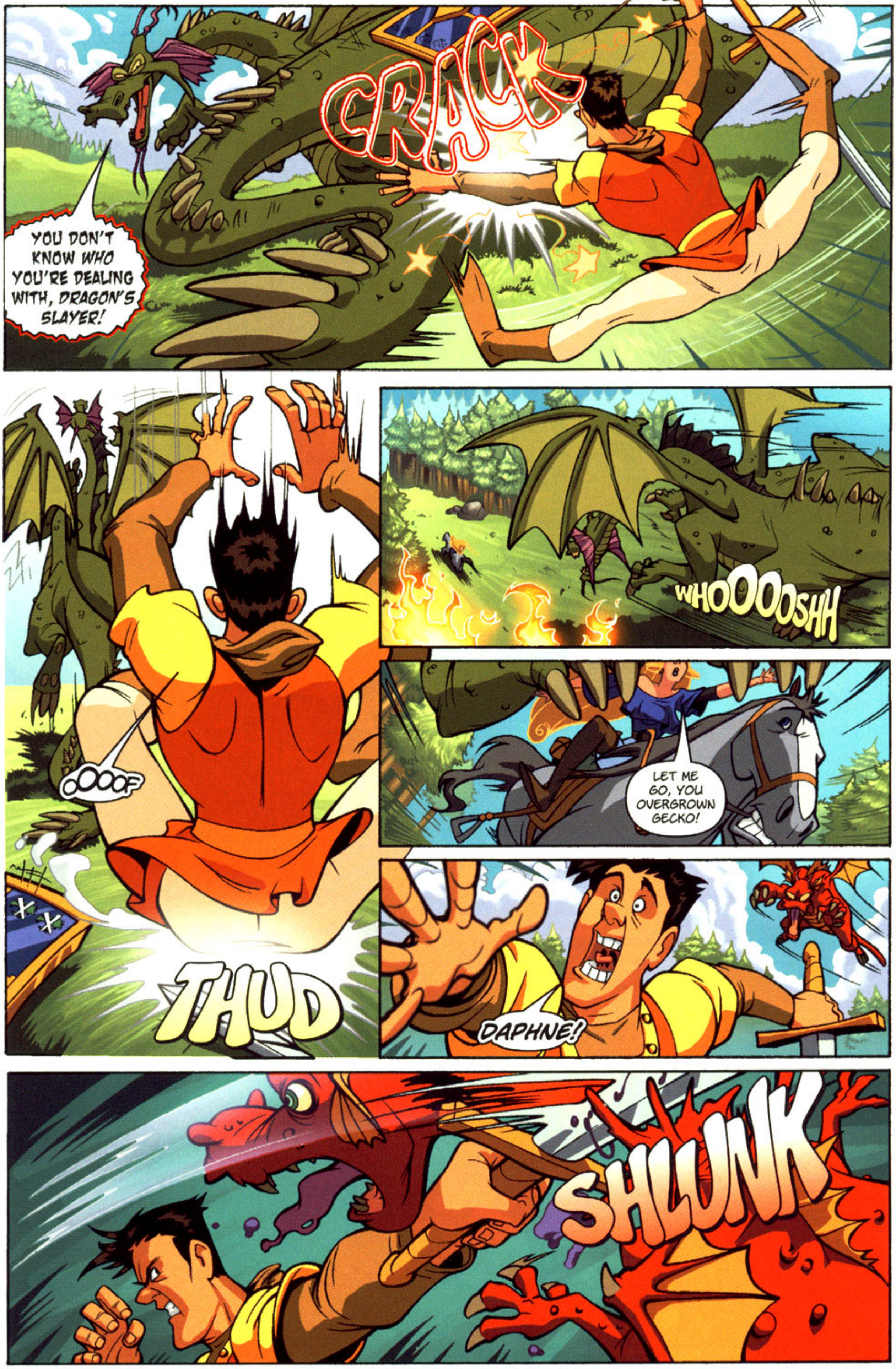

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS THAT I GOT THE BEGELSUM INSTEAD OF *YOU*.
GREAT "DIRK THE DARING" GOT BESTED BY A WOMAN!
YOU ARE *SO* EXAGGERATING! IT WAS MY LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES AND EXCELLENT SWORDPLAY THAT ***MANEUVERED*** THE BEAST INTO YOUR PATH AND ENABLED YOU TO. . .
. . . GET
OW
BANG
OW!
THUD!
HAHAHEEE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OWWW.
WHAT WERE YOU JUST SAYING ABOUT LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES?
NOTHING FEELS BROKEN, BUT I THINK ***EVERYTHING'S*** BRUISED.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE CAREFUL THEN, IF WE. . .
UH-OH.

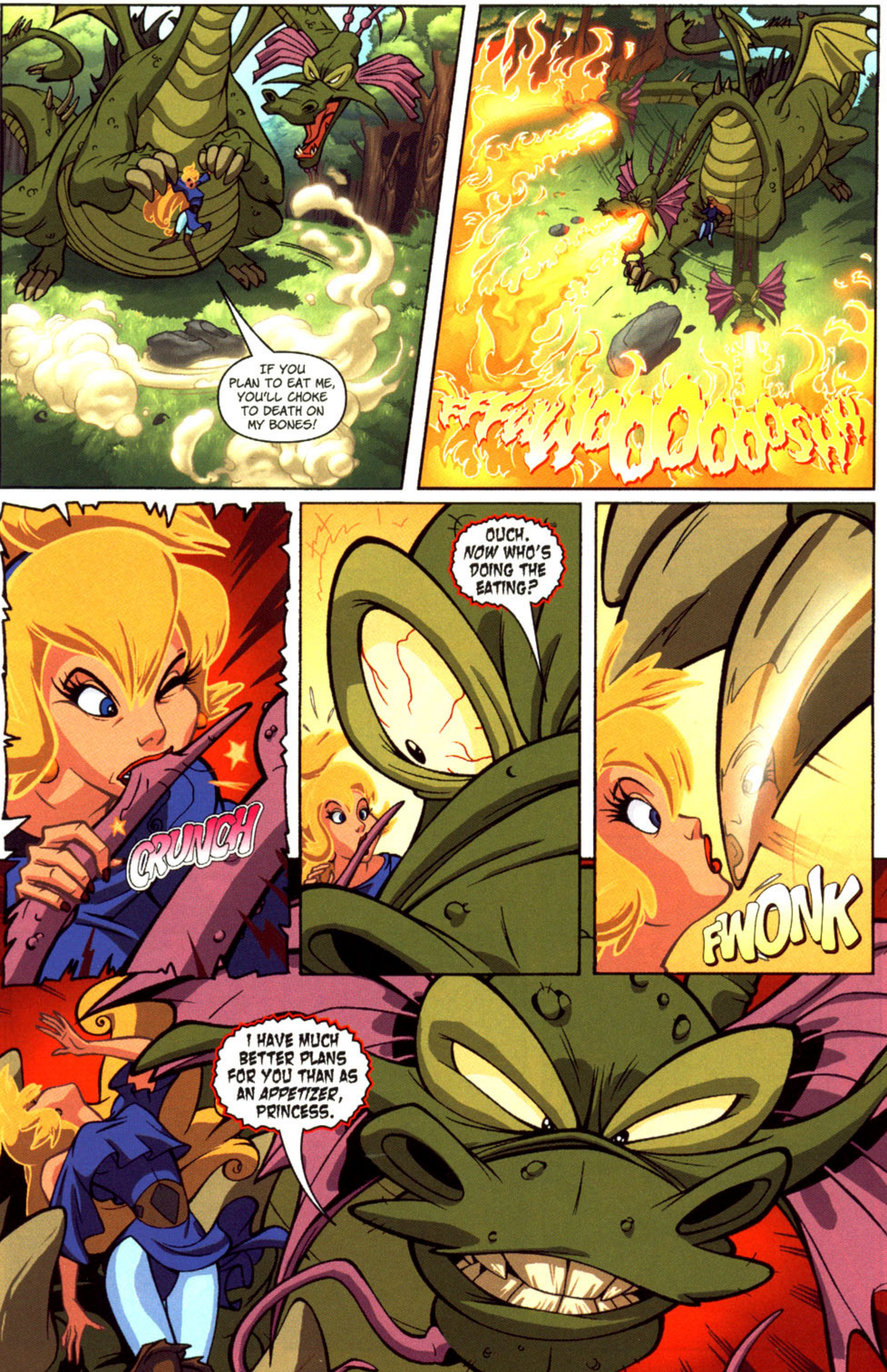


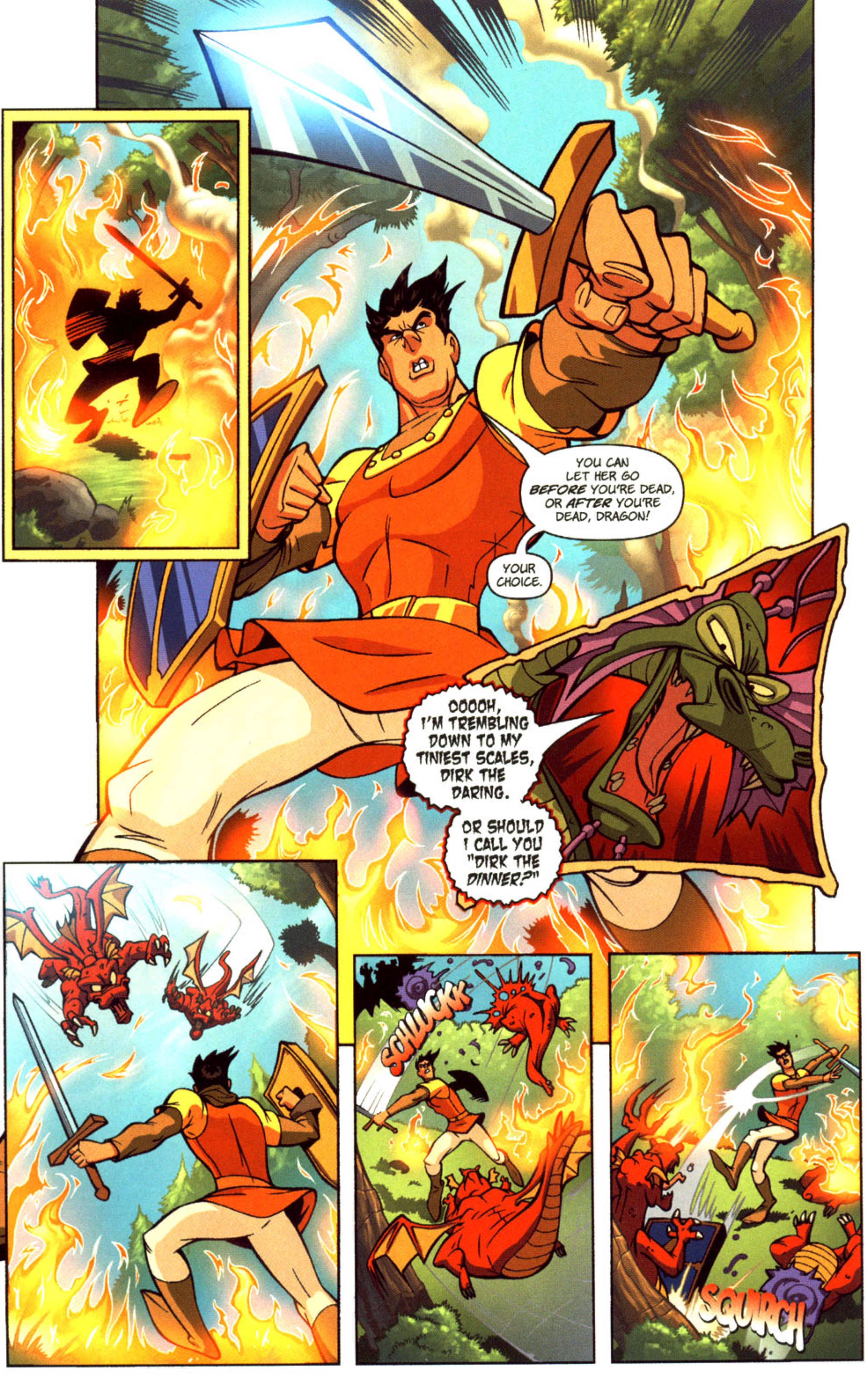

THAT DRAGON'S *HUGE!* BIGGER THAN ANY I'VE SEEN BEFORE!
ULP
AND HE SEEMS TO BE HUNGRY FOR *KNIGHT A'LA FLAMBE*.
HE'S COMING BACK FOR A SECOND PASS!
WHEEEEWHEEEET
I'M NOT SURE THE WEAPONS WE *HAVE* CAN TAKE THIS BEAST. LET'S FIND COVER!
IS THAT A "LESS THAN DARING" SUGGESTION?
NO, IT'S A "LET'S AVOID BEING *EATEN*" SUGGESTION.
RUSTSPOT! LOOK OUT!

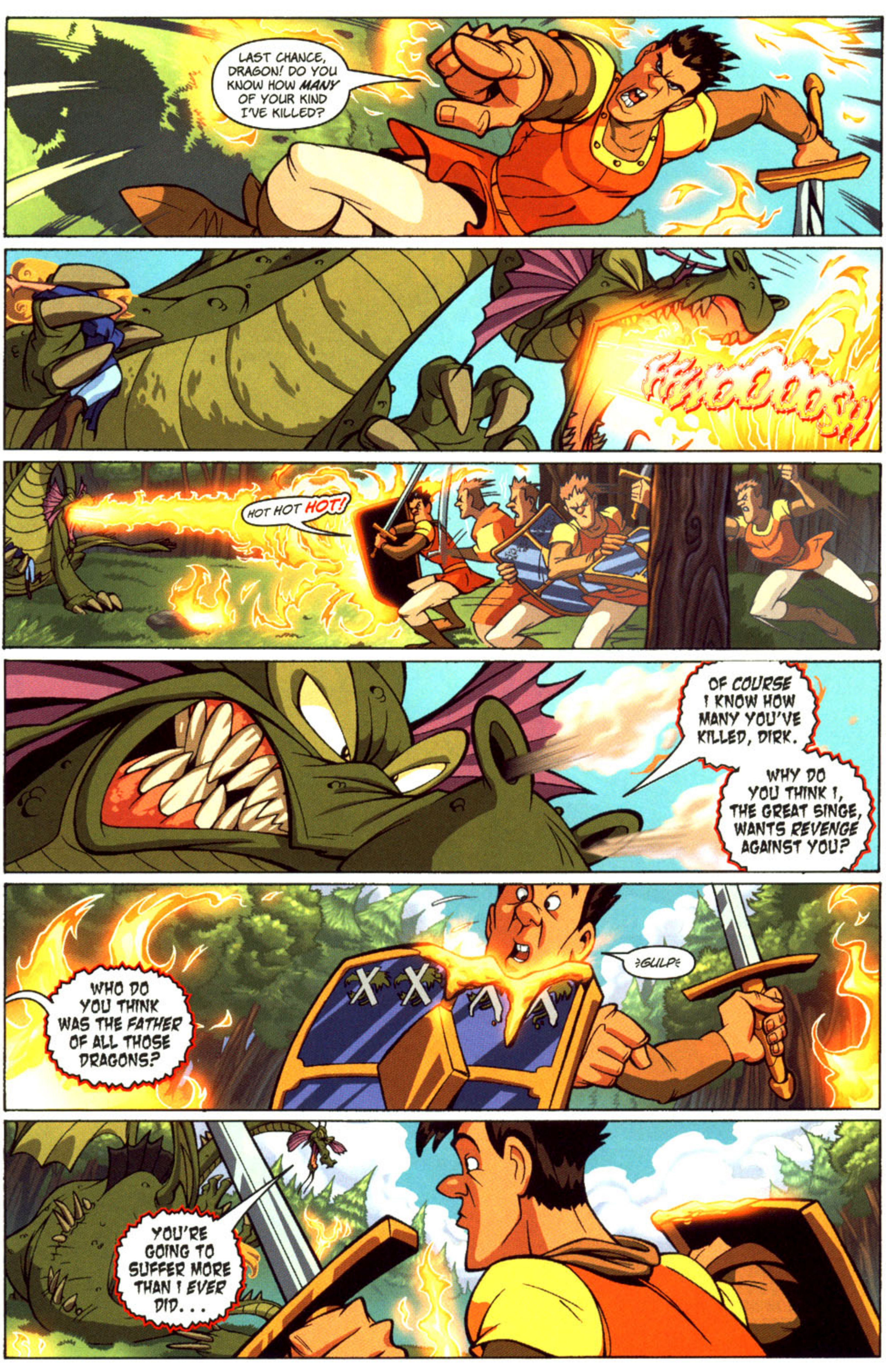

GET AWAY FROM HER!
BONK
THUD
REVENGE!
DAPHNE!
FSHWOOOOOSH

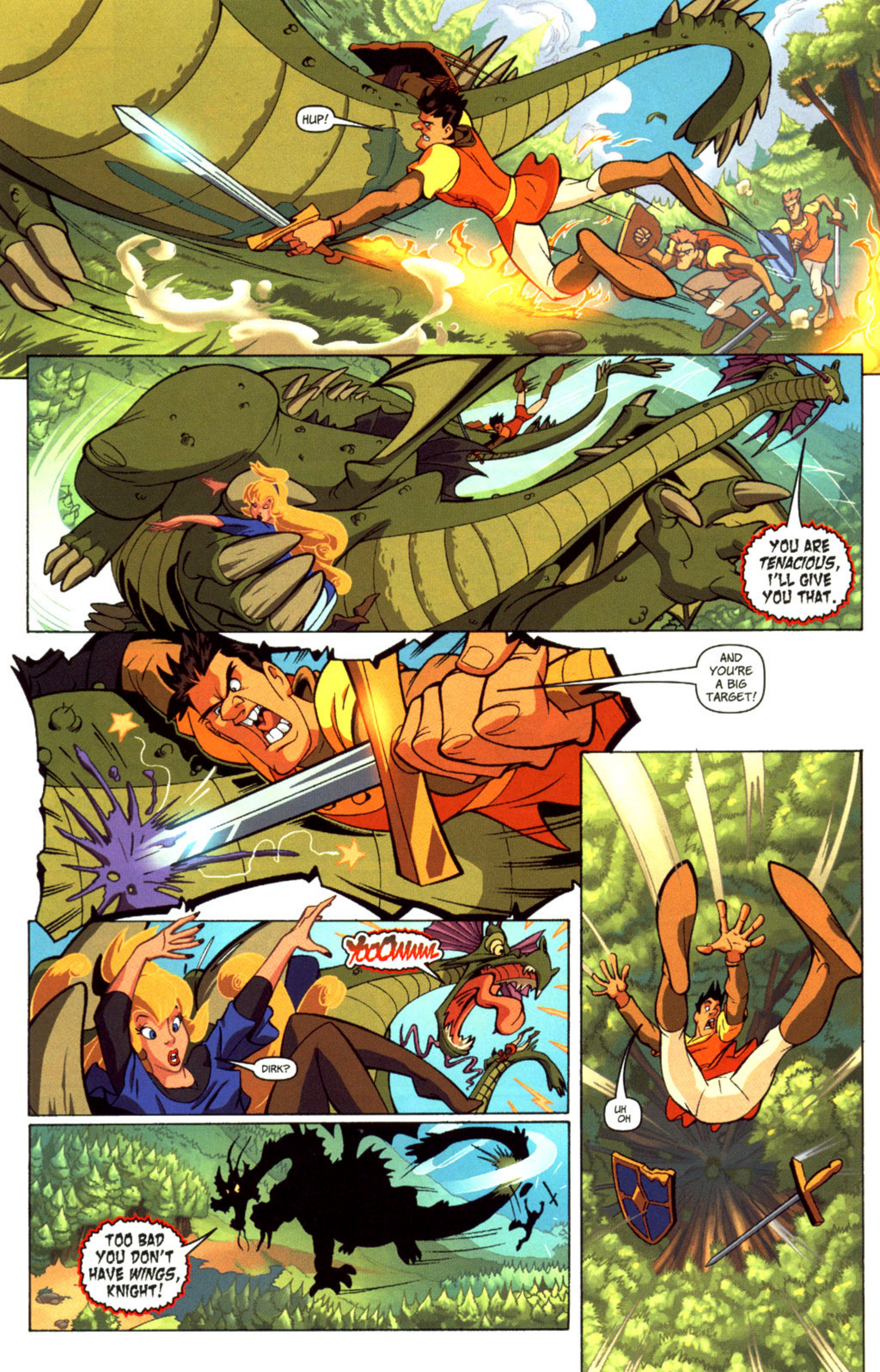

HE'S GOT SOME BAD BREATH!
OWW!! HOT FOOT!
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GET ON BERTRAM AND GET OUT OF HERE. IT'S CLEARLY ME THE DRAGON WANTS!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T WANT TO. BUT SINCE RUSTSPOT JUST RAN OFF WITH MY WEAPONS, FIGHTING MIGHT BE A BIT DIFFICULT.
I'LL TRY TO *AHEM* DRAW THEIR FIRE.
JUST GO!
AND I'LL TELL THE SHIELD PAINTER TO GET READY TO PAINT ANOTHER DRAGON!
PREPARE TO MEET YOUR DOOM, DRAGON!

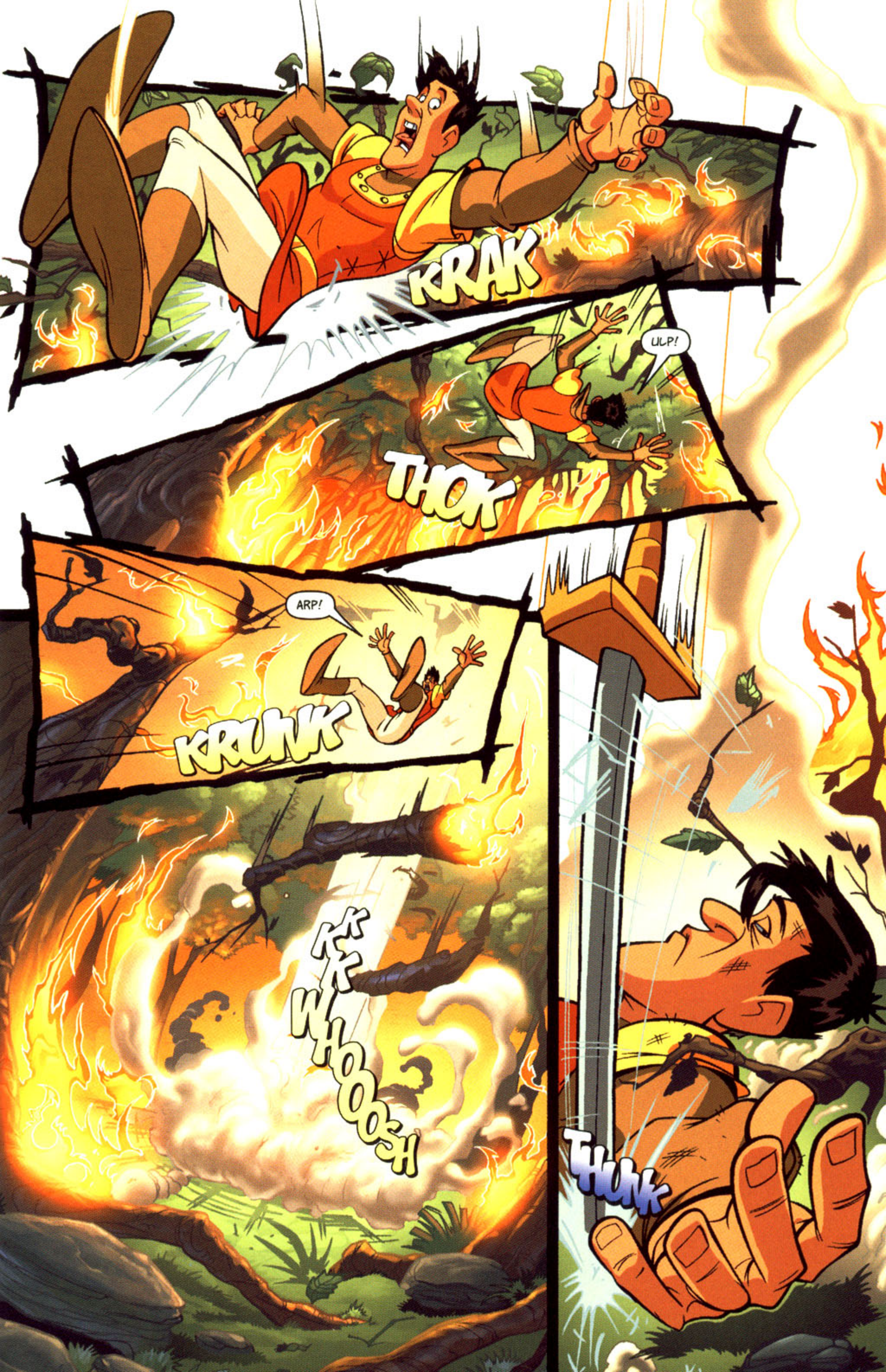

CRACK
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH, DRAGON'S SLAYER!
OOOOF
THUD
WHOOOOOSHH
LET ME GO, YOU OVERGROWN GECKO!
DAPHNE!
SHLUNK

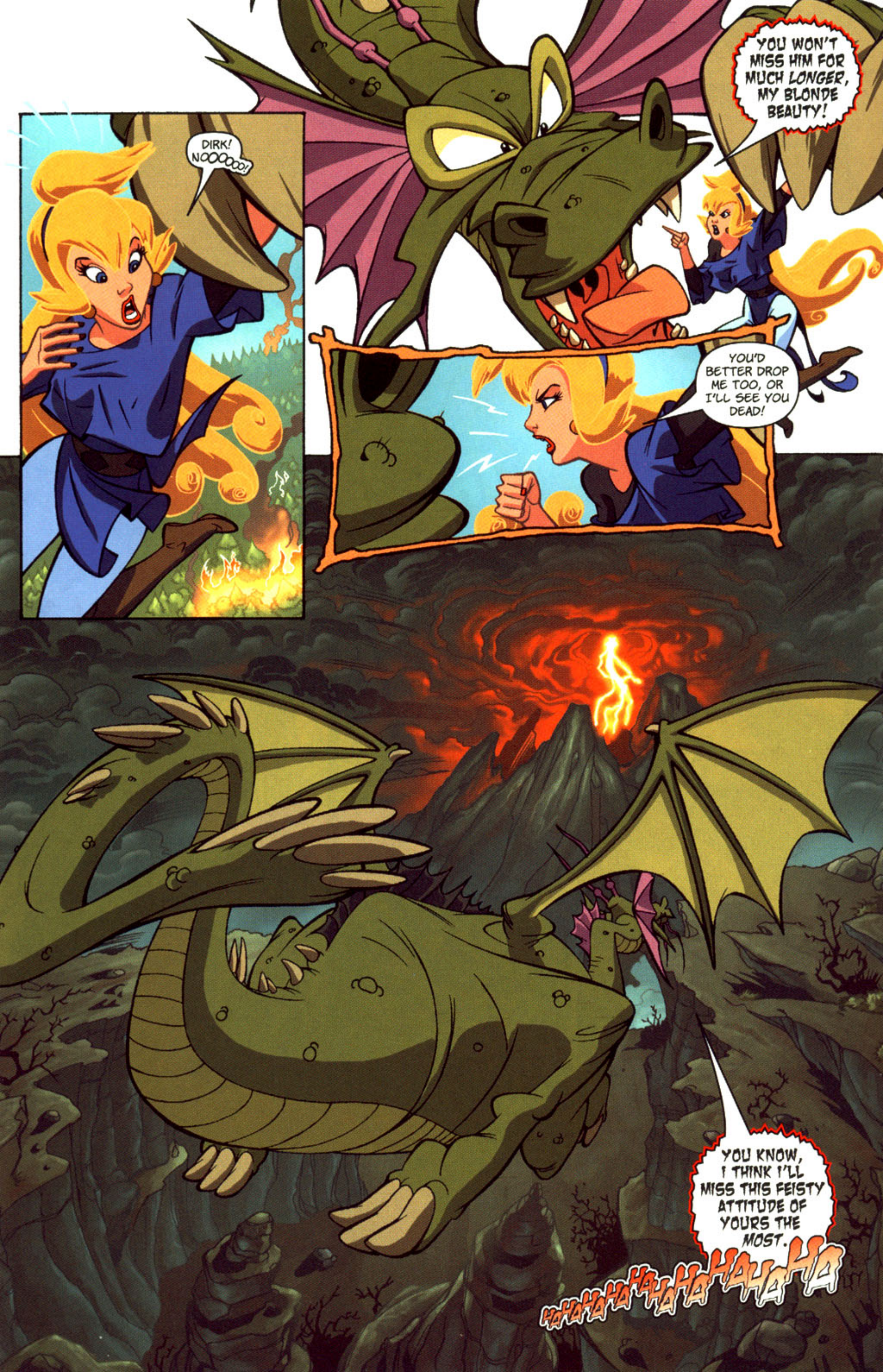

IF YOU PLAN TO EAT ME, YOU'LL CHOKE TO DEATH ON MY BONES!
FFFWOOOOOSH!
CRUNCH
OUCH. *NOW* WHO'S DOING THE EATING?
FWONK
I HAVE MUCH BETTER PLANS FOR YOU THAN AS AN *APPETIZER*, PRINCESS.

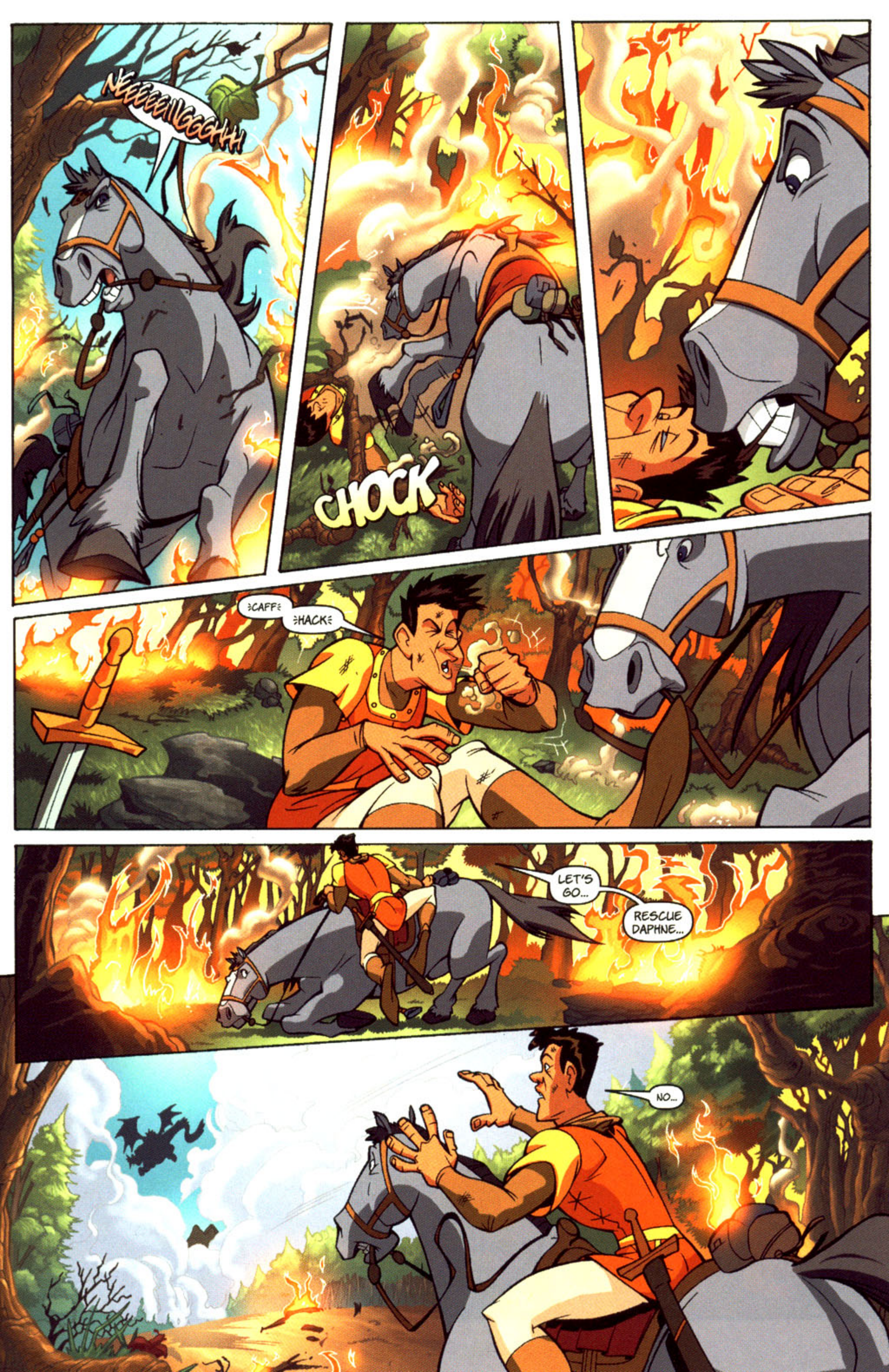

YOU CAN LET HER GO *BEFORE* YOU'RE DEAD, OR *AFTER* YOU'RE DEAD, DRAGON!
YOUR CHOICE.
OOOOH, I'M TREMBLING DOWN TO MY TINIEST SCALES, DIRK THE DARING.
OR SHOULD I CALL YOU "DIRK THE *DINNER?*"
SCHLOCKK
SQUIRCH

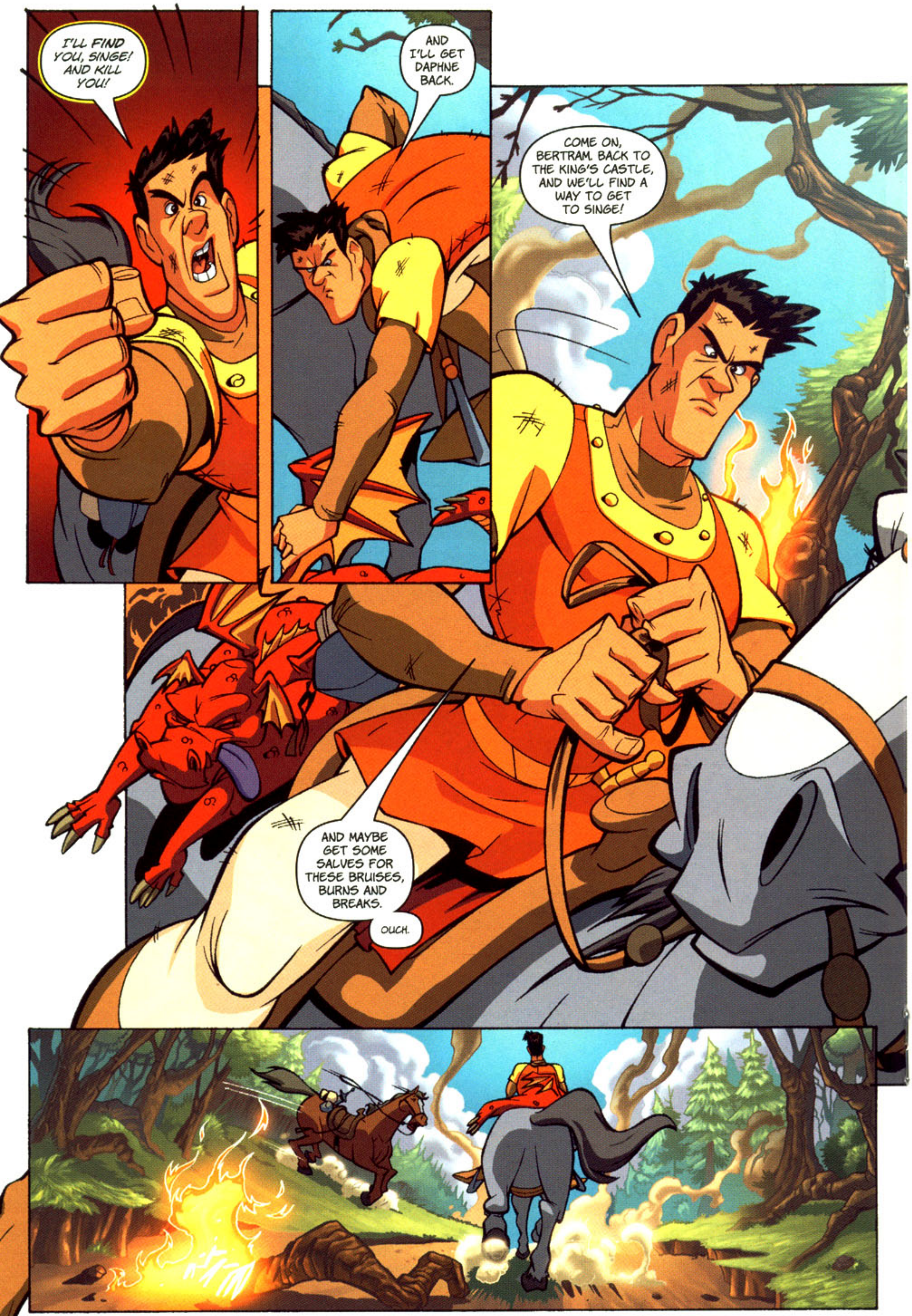

LAST CHANCE, DRAGON! DO YOU KNOW HOW *MANY* OF YOUR KIND I'VE KILLED?
FFHOOOOSH
HOT HOT **HOT!**
OF *COURSE* I KNOW HOW MANY YOU'VE KILLED, DIRK.
WHY DO YOU THINK I, THE GREAT SINGE, WANTS *REVENGE* AGAINST YOU?
GULP
WHO DO YOU THINK WAS THE *FATHER* OF ALL THOSE DRAGONS?
YOU'RE GOING TO SUFFER MORE THAN I *EVER* DID. . .

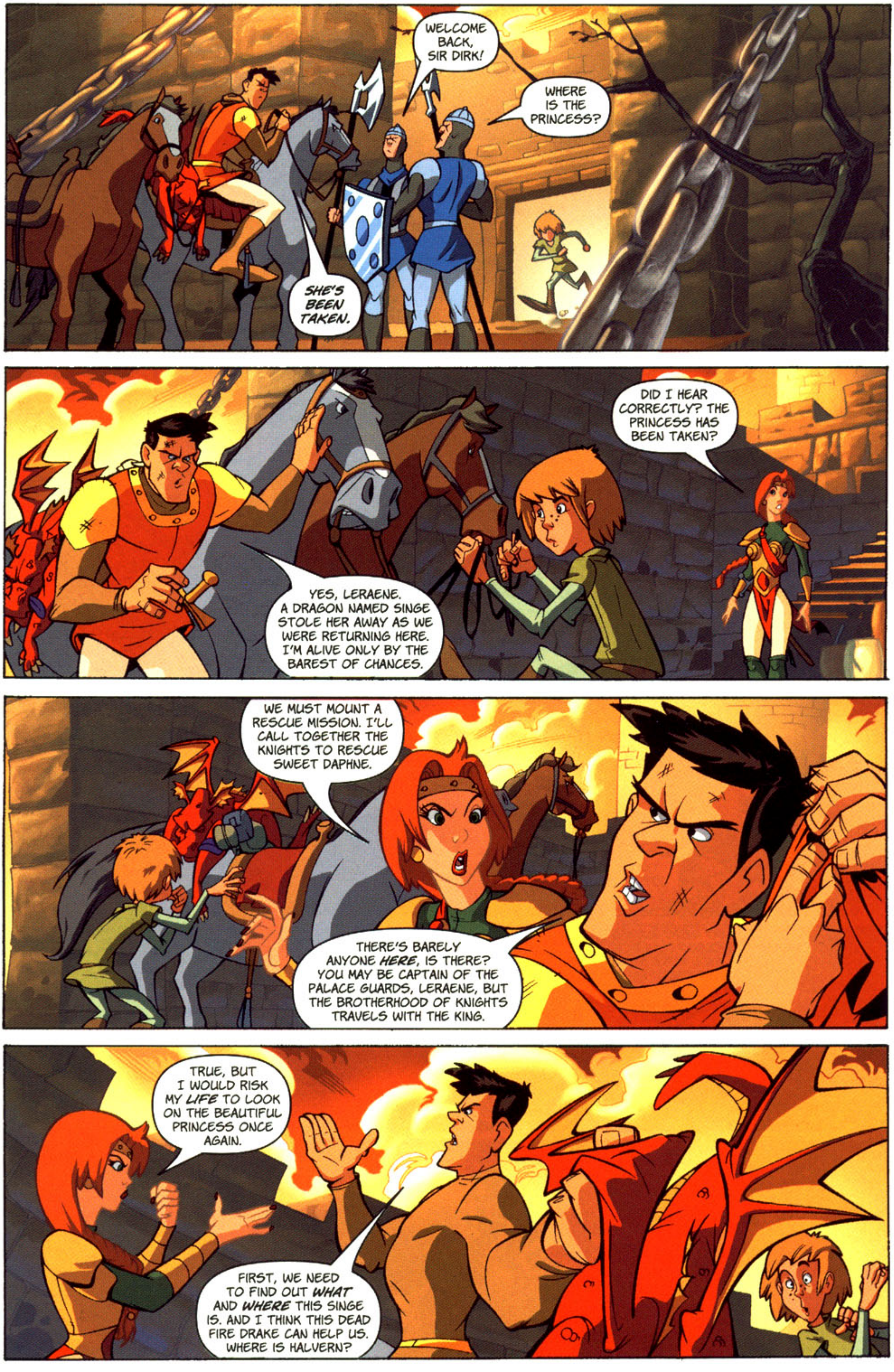

HUP!
YOU ARE TENACIOUS, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
AND YOU'RE A BIG TARGET!
YOOOWWWL
DIRK?
UH OH
TOO BAD YOU DON'T HAVE WINGS, KNIGHT!

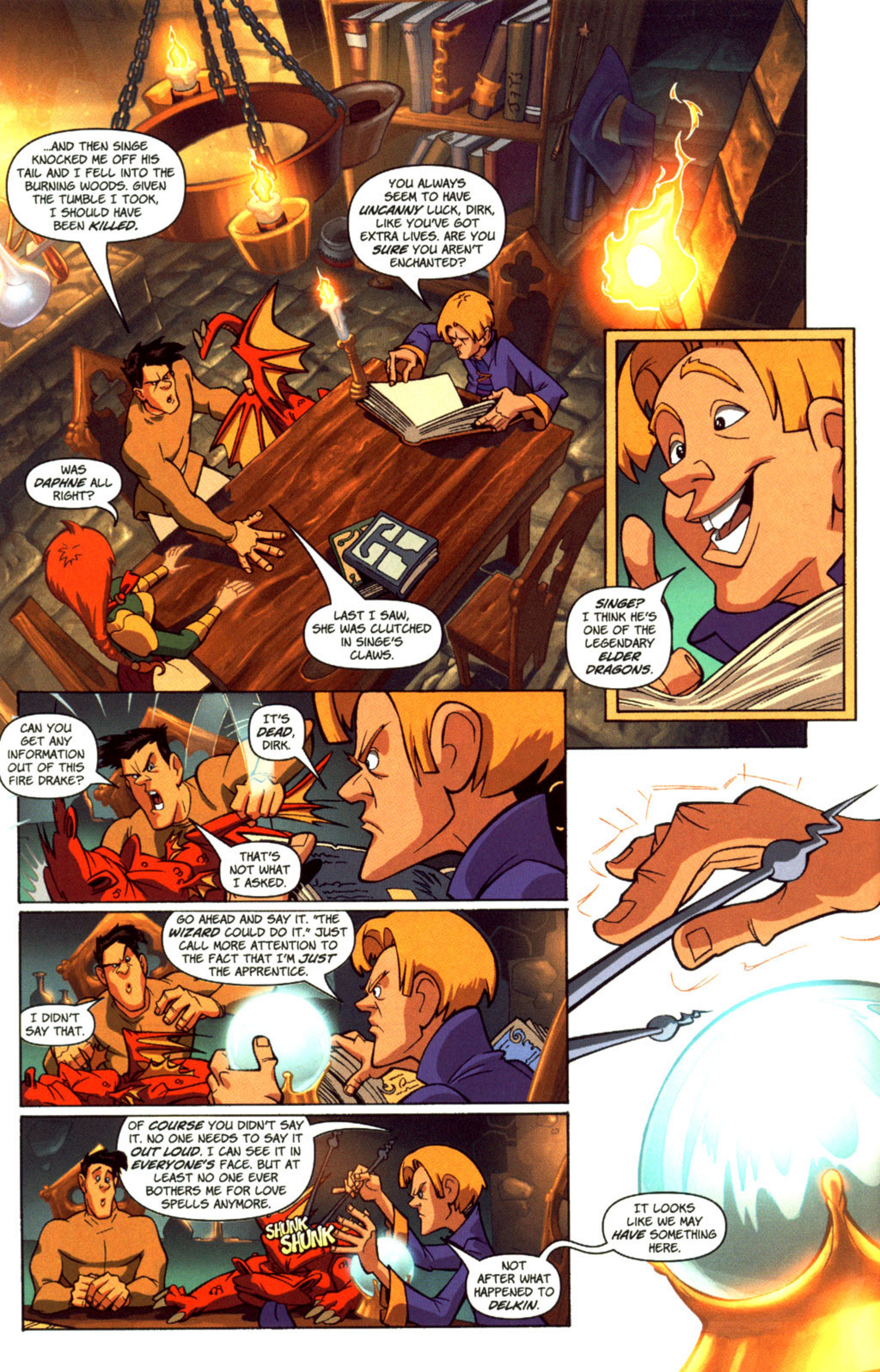

KRAK
ULP!
THOK
ARP!
KRUNK
KKK WHOOOOSH
THUNK

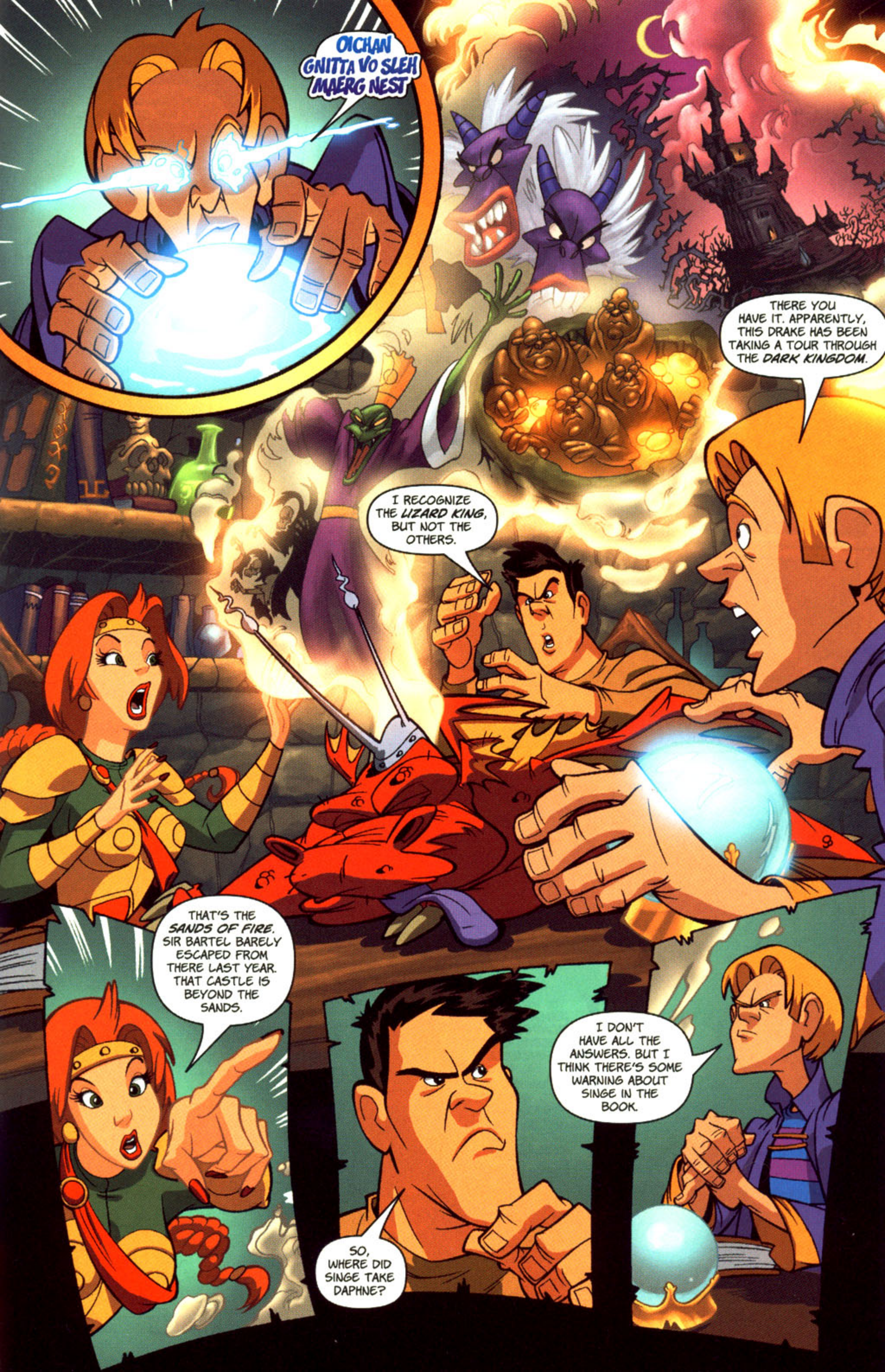

DIRK! NOOOOOO!
YOU WON'T MISS HIM FOR MUCH *LONGER*, MY BLONDE BEAUTY!
YOU'D BETTER DROP ME TOO, OR I'LL SEE YOU DEAD!
YOU KNOW, I THINK I'LL MISS THIS FEISTY ATTITUDE OF YOURS THE *MOST*.
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

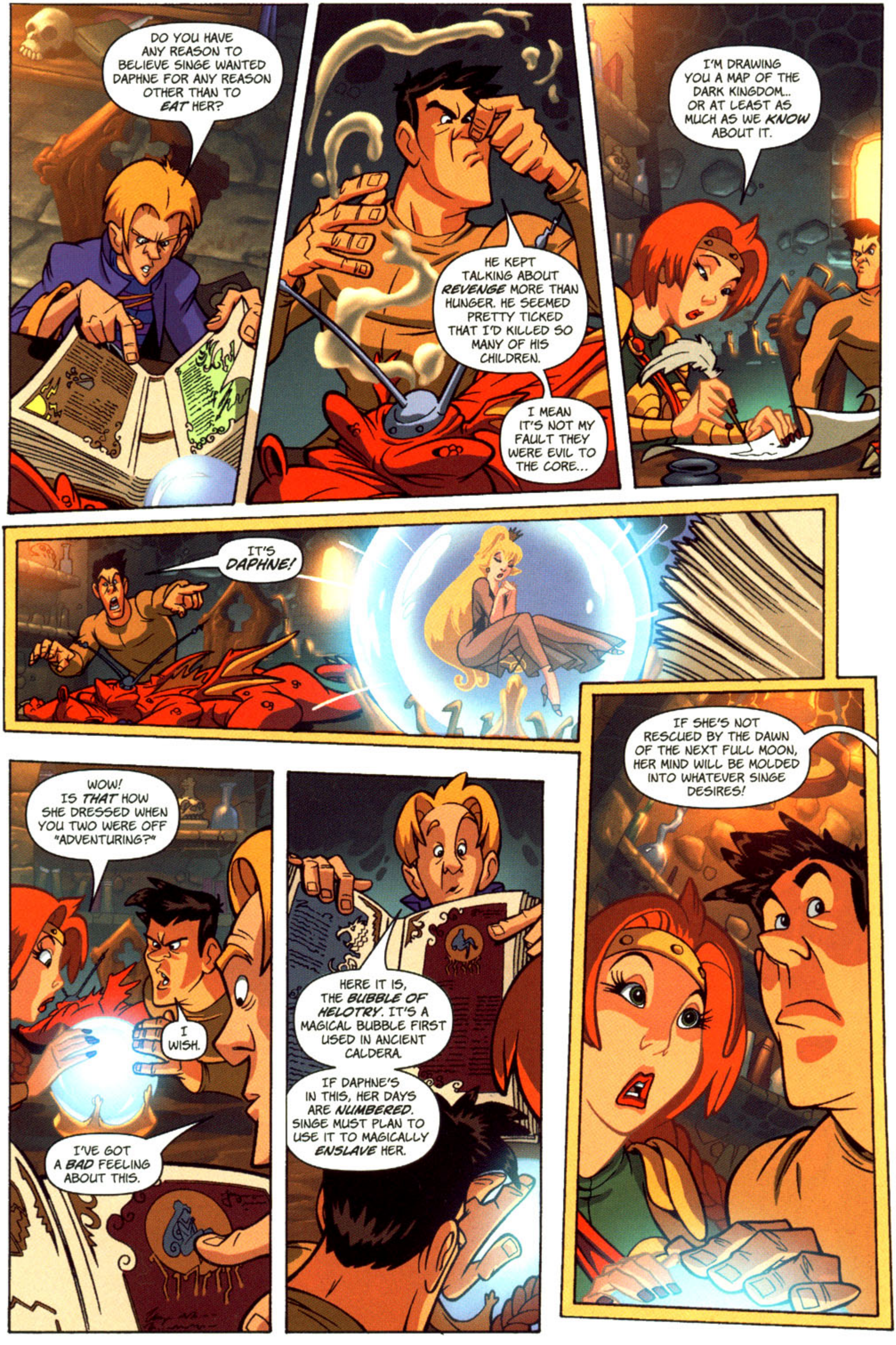

NEEEEEIIGGGHHH
CHOCK
CAFF
HACK
LET'S GO...
RESCUE DAPHNE...
NO...

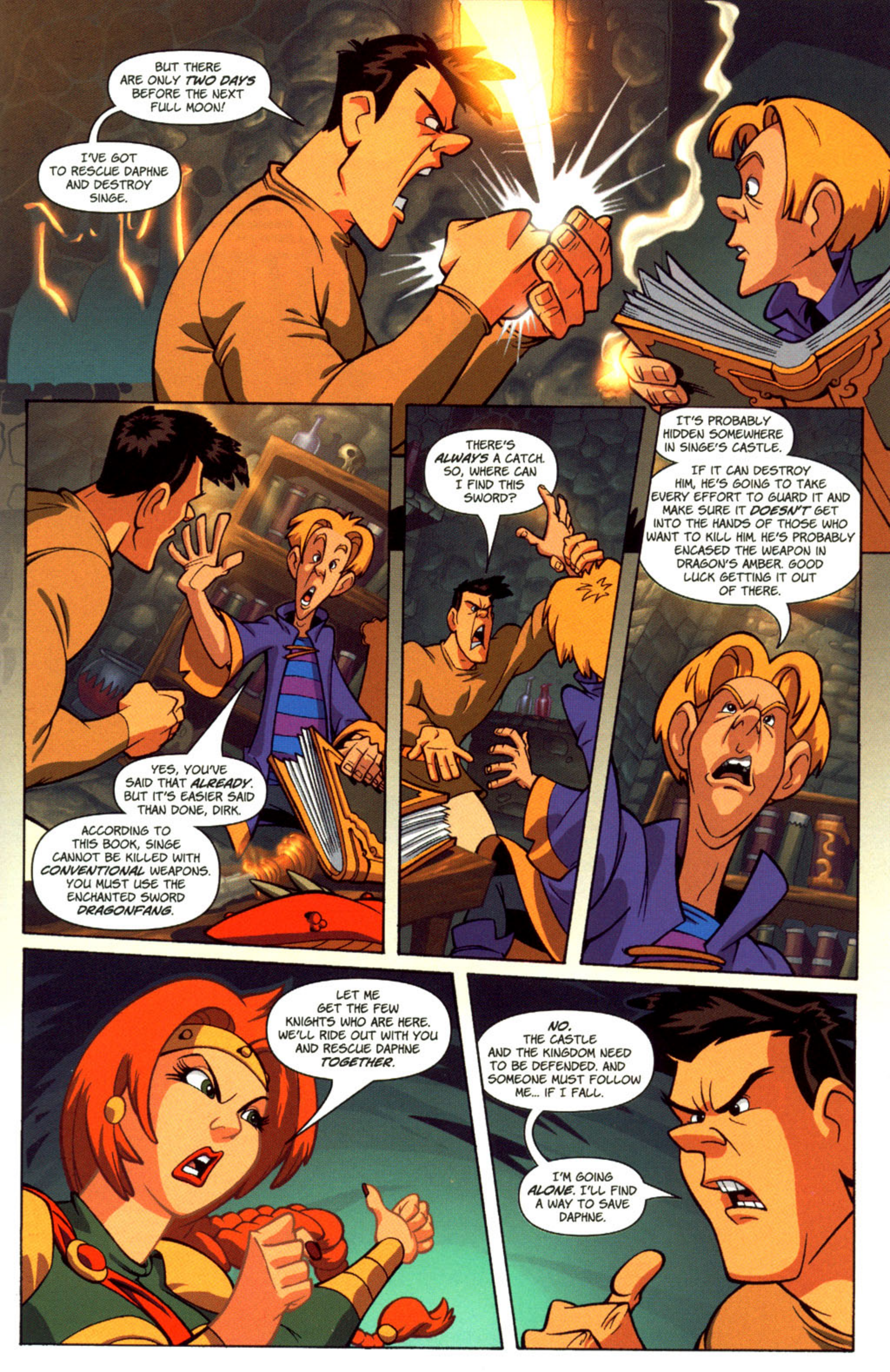

I'LL FIND YOU, SINGE! AND KILL YOU!
AND I'LL GET DAPHNE BACK.
COME ON, BERTRAM. BACK TO THE KING'S CASTLE, AND WE'LL FIND A WAY TO GET TO SINGE!
AND MAYBE GET SOME SALVES FOR THESE BRUISES, BURNS AND BREAKS.
OUCH.

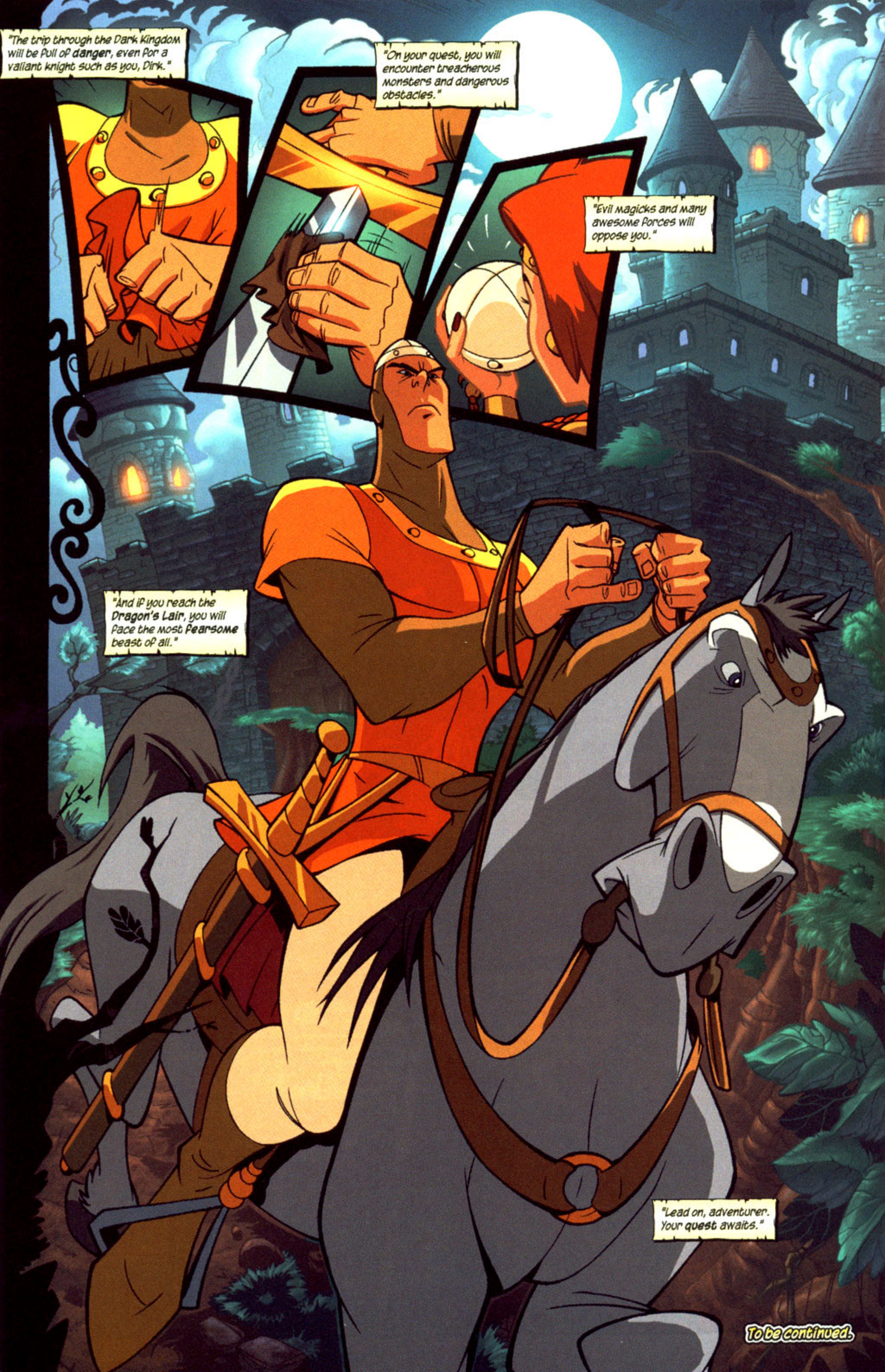

WELCOME BACK, SIR DIRK!
WHERE IS THE PRINCESS?
SHE'S BEEN TAKEN.
DID I HEAR CORRECTLY? THE PRINCESS HAS BEEN TAKEN?
YES, LERAENE. A DRAGON NAMED SINGE STOLE HER AWAY AS WE WERE RETURNING HERE. I'M ALIVE ONLY BY THE BAREST OF CHANCES.
WE MUST MOUNT A RESCUE MISSION. I'LL CALL TOGETHER THE KNIGHTS TO RESCUE SWEET DAPHNE.
THERE'S BARELY ANYONE HERE, IS THERE? YOU MAY BE CAPTAIN OF THE PALACE GUARDS, LERAENE, BUT THE BROTHERHOOD OF KNIGHTS TRAVELS WITH THE KING.
TRUE, BUT I WOULD RISK MY LIFE TO LOOK ON THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS ONCE AGAIN.
FIRST, WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT AND WHERE THIS SINGE IS. AND I THINK THIS DEAD FIRE DRAKE CAN HELP US. WHERE IS HALVERN?


...AND THEN SINGE KNOCKED ME OFF HIS TAIL AND I FELL INTO THE BURNING WOODS. GIVEN THE TUMBLE I TOOK, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN *KILLED.*
YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE *UNCANNY* LUCK, DIRK, LIKE YOU'VE GOT EXTRA LIVES. ARE YOU *SURE* YOU AREN'T ENCHANTED?
WAS *DAPHNE* ALL RIGHT?
LAST I SAW, SHE WAS CLUTCHED IN SINGE'S CLAWS.
SINGE? I THINK HE'S ONE OF THE LEGENDARY *ELDER DRAGONS.*
CAN YOU GET ANY INFORMATION OUT OF THIS FIRE DRAKE?
IT'S *DEAD,* DIRK.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED.
GO AHEAD AND SAY IT. "THE *WIZARD* COULD DO IT." JUST CALL MORE ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT I'M *JUST* THE APPRENTICE.
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
OF *COURSE* YOU DIDN'T SAY IT. NO ONE NEEDS TO SAY IT *OUT LOUD.* I CAN SEE IT IN *EVERYONE'S* FACE. BUT AT LEAST NO ONE EVER BOTHERS ME FOR LOVE SPELLS ANYMORE.
SHUNK SHUNK
NOT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO *DELKIN.*
IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY *HAVE* SOMETHING HERE.


OICHAN GNITTA VO SLEH MAERG NEST
THERE YOU HAVE IT. APPARENTLY, THIS DRAKE HAS BEEN TAKING A TOUR THROUGH THE *DARK KINGDOM*.
I RECOGNIZE THE *LIZARD KING*, BUT NOT THE OTHERS.
THAT'S THE *SANDS OF FIRE*. SIR BARTEL BARELY ESCAPED FROM THERE LAST YEAR. THAT CASTLE IS BEYOND THE SANDS.
SO, WHERE DID SINGE TAKE DAPHNE?
I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS. BUT I THINK THERE'S SOME WARNING ABOUT SINGE IN THE BOOK.


DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE SINGE WANTED DAPHNE FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN TO *EAT* HER?
HE KEPT TALKING ABOUT *REVENGE* MORE THAN HUNGER. HE SEEMED PRETTY TICKED THAT I'D KILLED SO MANY OF HIS CHILDREN.
I MEAN IT'S NOT MY FAULT THEY WERE EVIL TO THE CORE...
I'M DRAWING YOU A MAP OF THE DARK KINGDOM.. OR AT LEAST AS MUCH AS WE *KNOW* ABOUT IT.
IT'S *DAPHNE!*
IF SHE'S NOT RESCUED BY THE DAWN OF THE NEXT FULL MOON, HER MIND WILL BE MOLDED INTO WHATEVER SINGE DESIRES!
WOW! IS *THAT* HOW SHE DRESSED WHEN YOU TWO WERE OFF "ADVENTURING?"
I WISH.
I'VE GOT A *BAD* FEELING ABOUT THIS.
HERE IT IS, THE *BUBBLE OF HELOTRY*. IT'S A MAGICAL BUBBLE FIRST USED IN ANCIENT CALDERA.
IF DAPHNE'S IN THIS, HER DAYS ARE *NUMBERED*. SINGE MUST PLAN TO USE IT TO MAGICALLY *ENSLAVE* HER.


BUT THERE ARE ONLY *TWO DAYS* BEFORE THE NEXT FULL MOON!
I'VE GOT TO RESCUE DAPHNE AND DESTROY SINGE.
YES, YOU'VE SAID THAT *ALREADY*. BUT IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, DIRK.
ACCORDING TO THIS BOOK, SINGE CANNOT BE KILLED WITH *CONVENTIONAL* WEAPONS. YOU MUST USE THE ENCHANTED SWORD *DRAGONFANG*.
THERE'S *ALWAYS* A CATCH. SO, WHERE CAN I FIND THIS SWORD?
IT'S PROBABLY HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN SINGE'S CASTLE.
IF IT CAN DESTROY HIM, HE'S GOING TO TAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GUARD IT AND MAKE SURE IT *DOESN'T* GET INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO WANT TO KILL HIM. HE'S PROBABLY ENCASED THE WEAPON IN DRAGON'S AMBER. GOOD LUCK GETTING IT OUT OF THERE.
LET ME GET THE FEW KNIGHTS WHO ARE HERE. WE'LL RIDE OUT WITH YOU AND RESCUE DAPHNE *TOGETHER*.
NO. THE CASTLE AND THE KINGDOM NEED TO BE DEFENDED. AND SOMEONE MUST FOLLOW ME... IF I FALL.
I'M GOING *ALONE*. I'LL FIND A WAY TO SAVE DAPHNE.


"The trip through the Dark Kingdom will be full of **danger**, even for a valiant knight such as you, Dirk."
"On your quest, you will encounter treacherous monsters and dangerous obstacles."
"Evil magicks and many awesome forces will oppose you."
"And if you reach the **Dragon's Lair**, you will face the most **fearsome** beast of all."
"Lead on, adventurer. Your **quest** awaits."
To be continued.

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2

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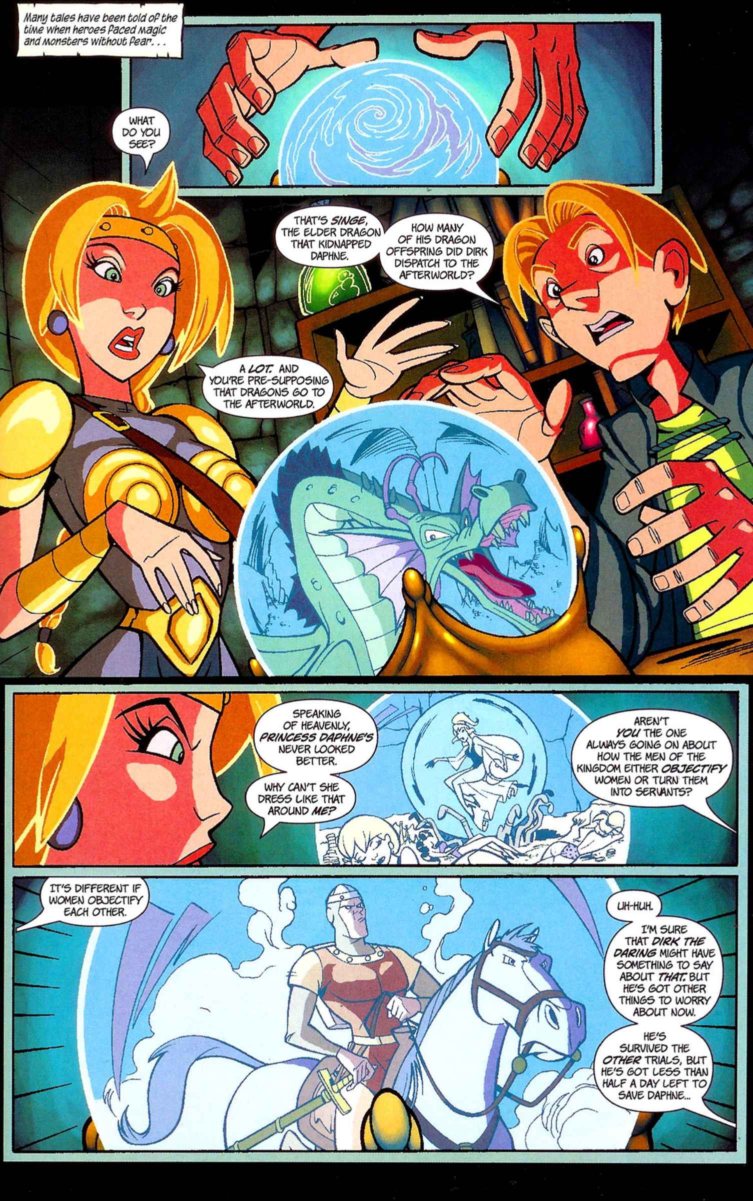
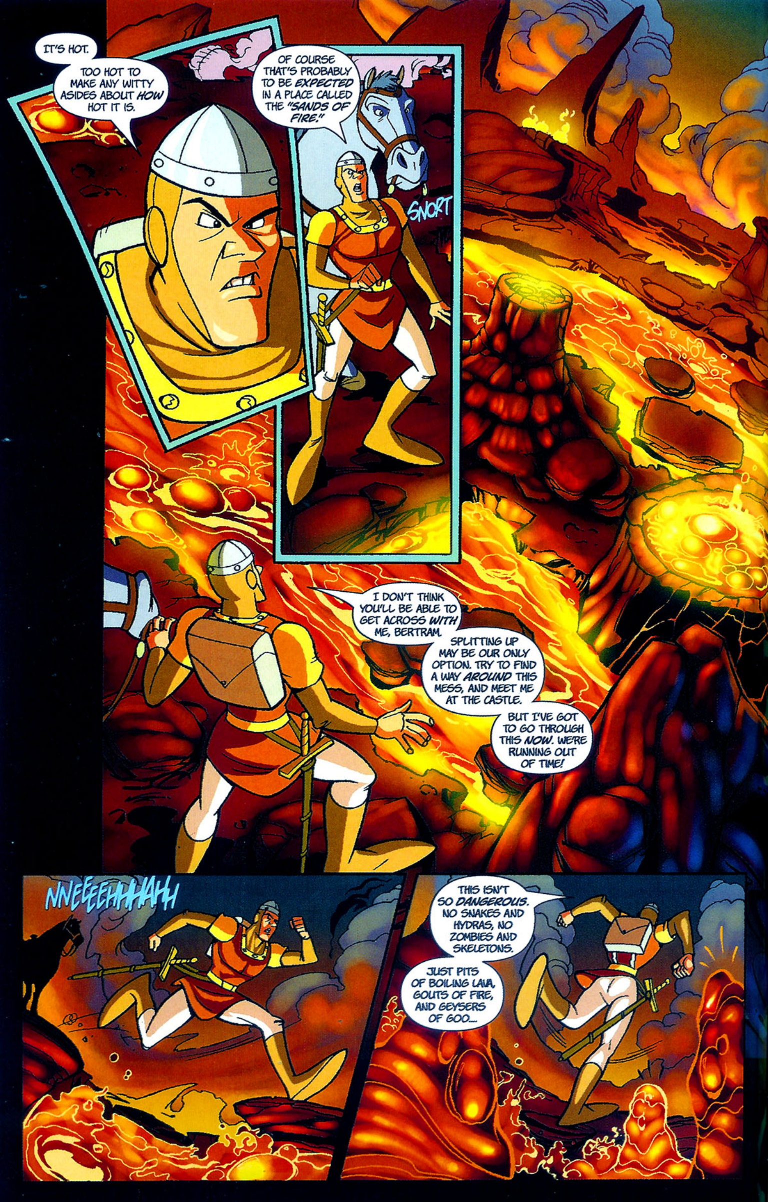
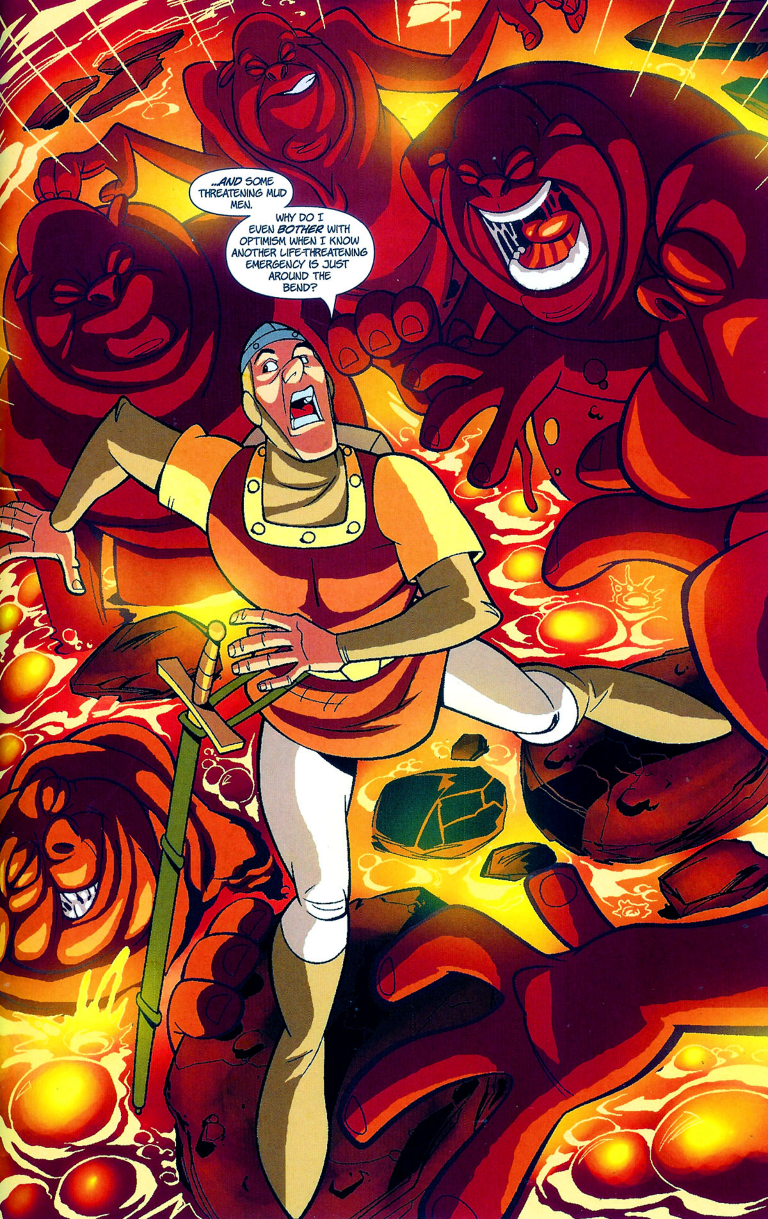
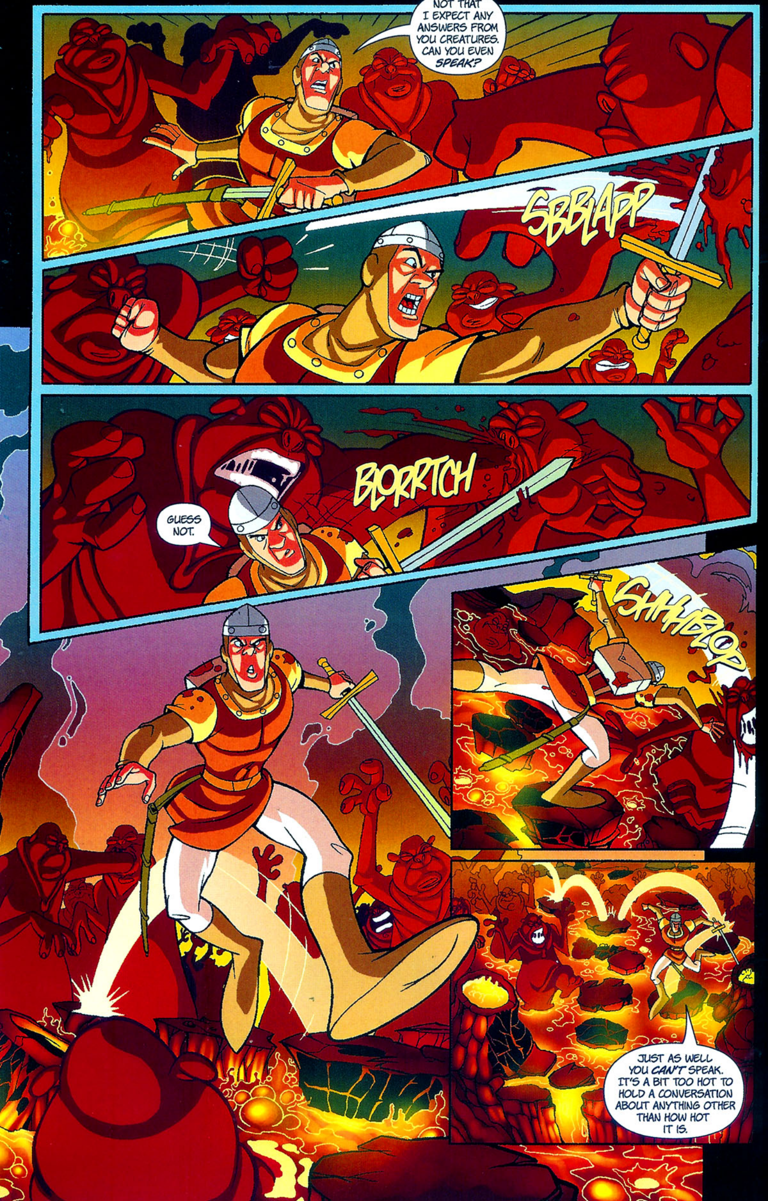
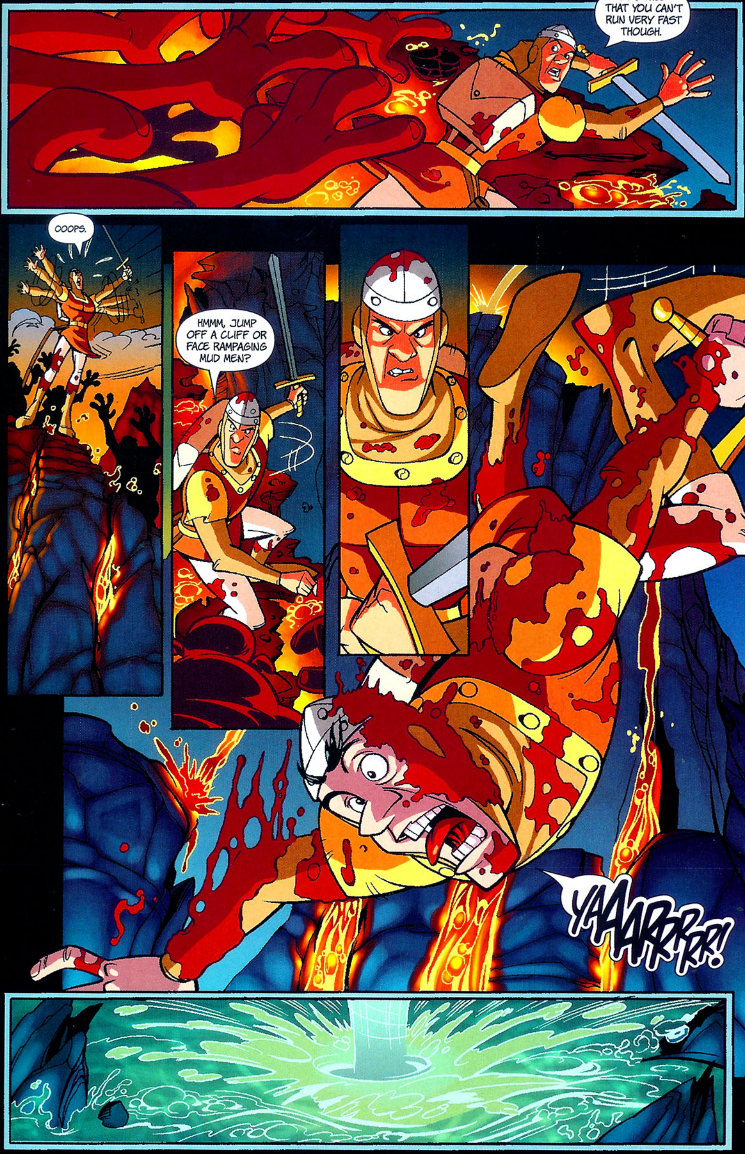
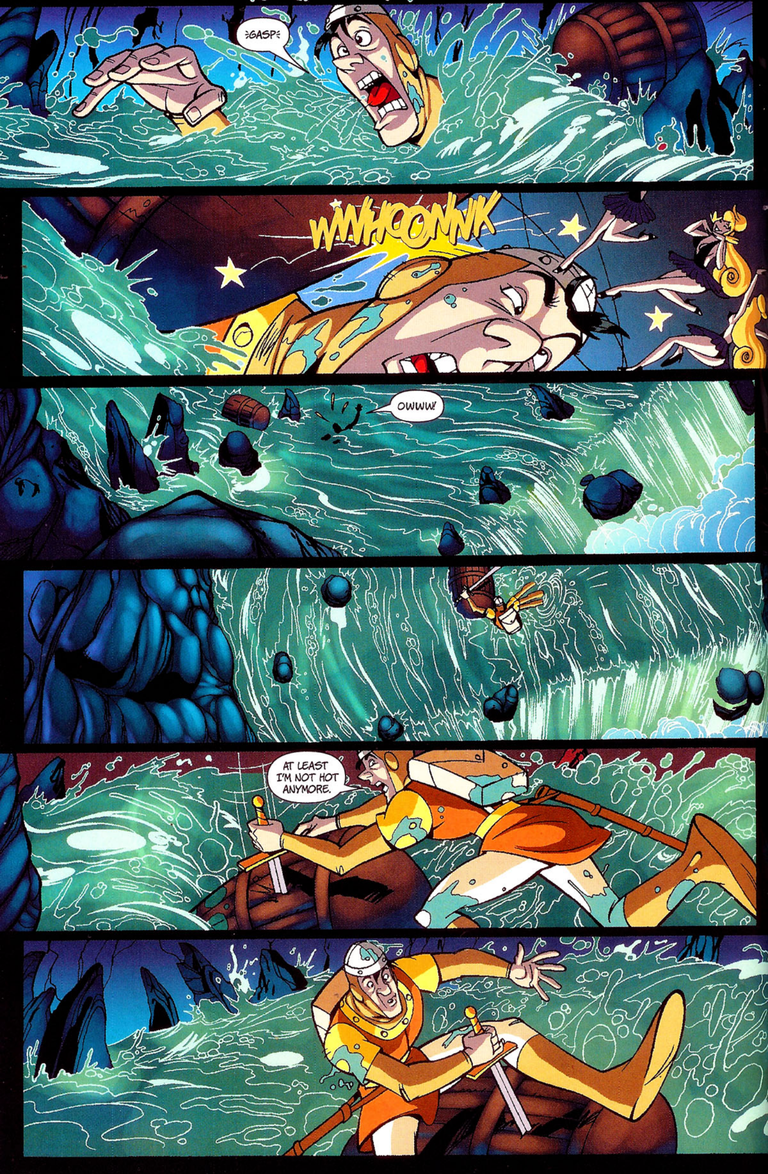

Many tales have been told of the time when heroes faced magic and monsters without fear. . .
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
THAT'S *SINGE*, THE ELDER DRAGON THAT KIDNAPPED DAPHNE.
HOW MANY OF HIS DRAGON OFFSPRING DID DIRK DISPATCH TO THE AFTERWORLD?
A *LOT.* AND YOU'RE PRE-SUPPOSING THAT DRAGONS GO TO THE AFTERWORLD.
SPEAKING OF HEAVENLY, *PRINCESS DAPHNE'S* NEVER LOOKED BETTER.
WHY CAN'T SHE DRESS LIKE THAT AROUND *ME?*
AREN'T *YOU* THE ONE ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT HOW THE MEN OF THE KINGDOM EITHER *OBJECTIFY* WOMEN OR TURN THEM INTO SERVANTS?
IT'S DIFFERENT IF WOMEN OBJECTIFY EACH OTHER.
UH-HUH.
I'M SURE THAT *DIRK THE DARING* MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT *THAT.* BUT HE'S GOT OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT NOW.
HE'S SURVIVED THE *OTHER* TRIALS, BUT HE'S GOT LESS THAN HALF A DAY LEFT TO SAVE DAPHNE...


IT'S HOT.
TOO HOT TO MAKE ANY WITTY ASIDES ABOUT *HOW* HOT IT IS.
OF COURSE THAT'S PROBABLY TO BE *EXPECTED* IN A PLACE CALLED THE *"SANDS OF FIRE."*
SNORT
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET ACROSS *WITH* ME, BERTRAM.
SPLITTING UP MAY BE OUR ONLY OPTION. TRY TO FIND A WAY *AROUND* THIS MESS, AND MEET ME AT THE CASTLE.
BUT I'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH THIS *NOW*. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
NNEEEEHHHAHH
THIS ISN'T SO *DANGEROUS*. NO SNAKES AND HYDRAS, NO ZOMBIES AND SKELETONS.
JUST PITS OF BOILING LAVA, GOUTS OF FIRE, AND GEYSERS OF GOO...

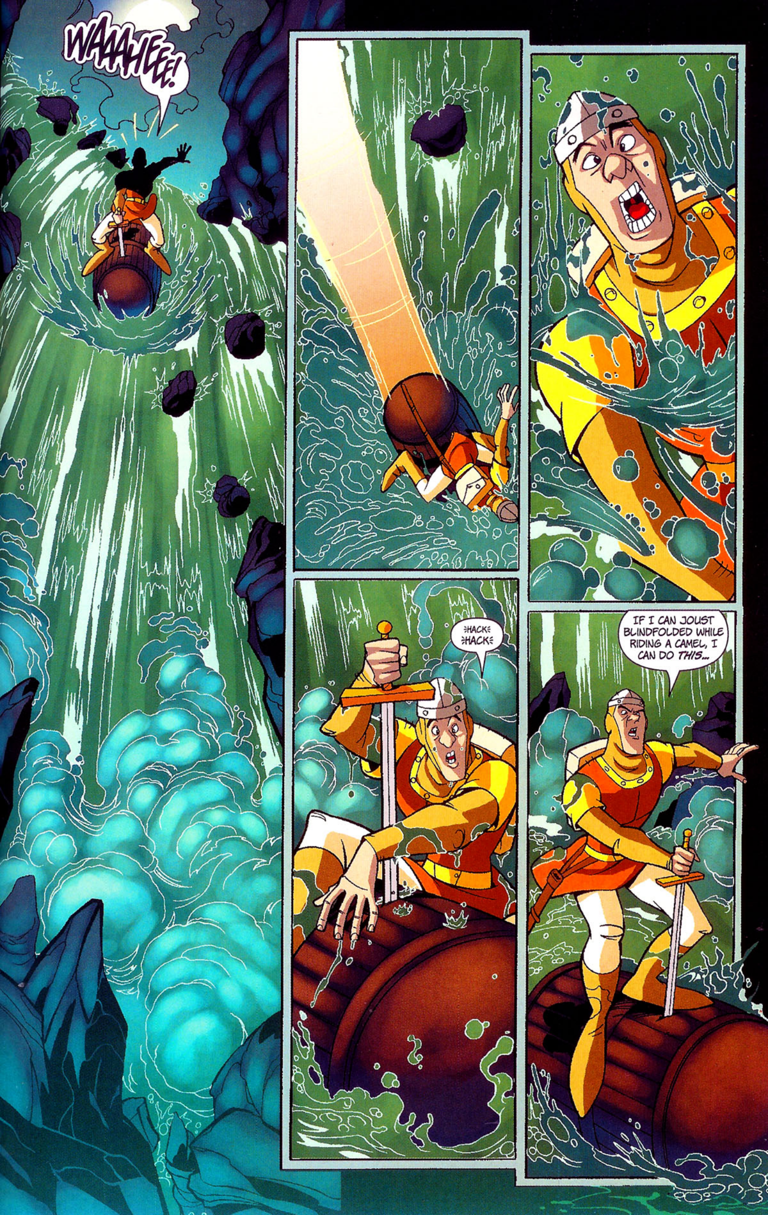

...AND SOME THREATENING MUD MEN.
WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER WITH OPTIMISM WHEN I KNOW ANOTHER LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY IS JUST AROUND THE BEND?

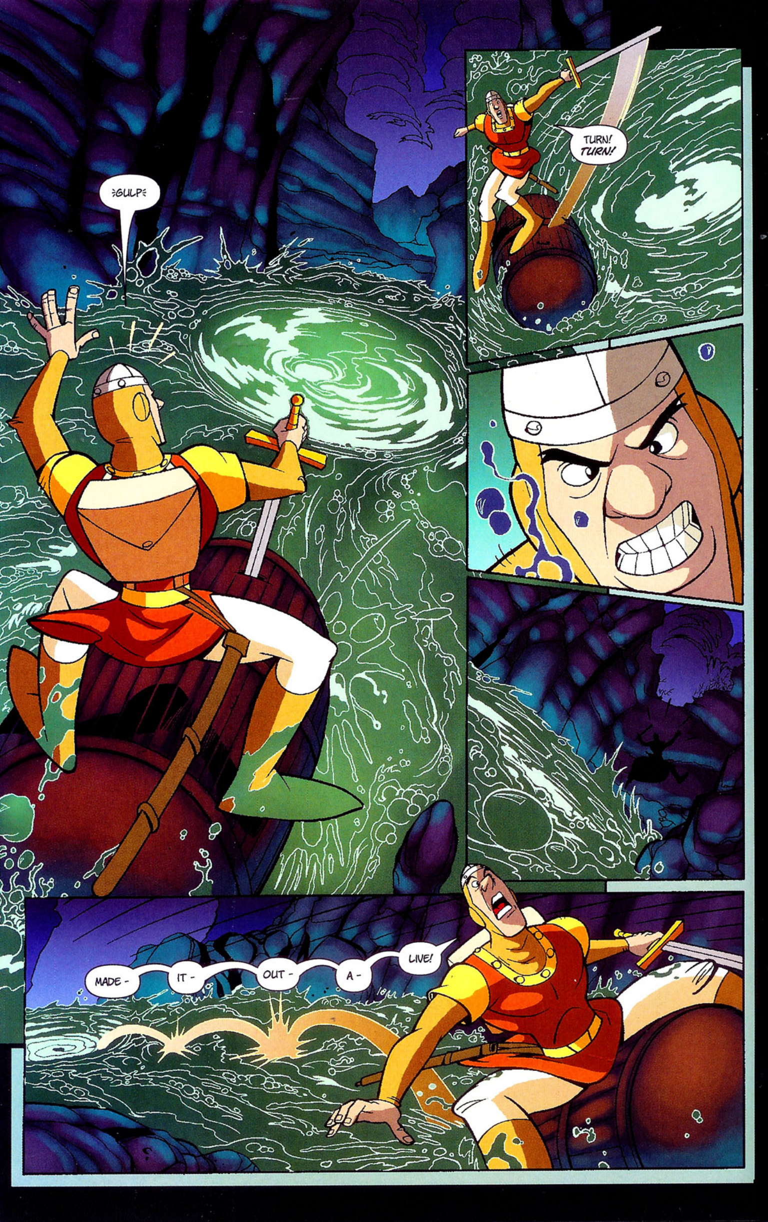

NOT THAT I EXPECT ANY ANSWERS FROM YOU CREATURES. CAN YOU EVEN *SPEAK?*
SBBLAPP
BLORRTCH
GUESS NOT.
SHHHBLOP
JUST AS WELL YOU *CAN'T* SPEAK. IT'S A BIT TOO HOT TO HOLD A CONVERSATION ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN HOW HOT IT IS.

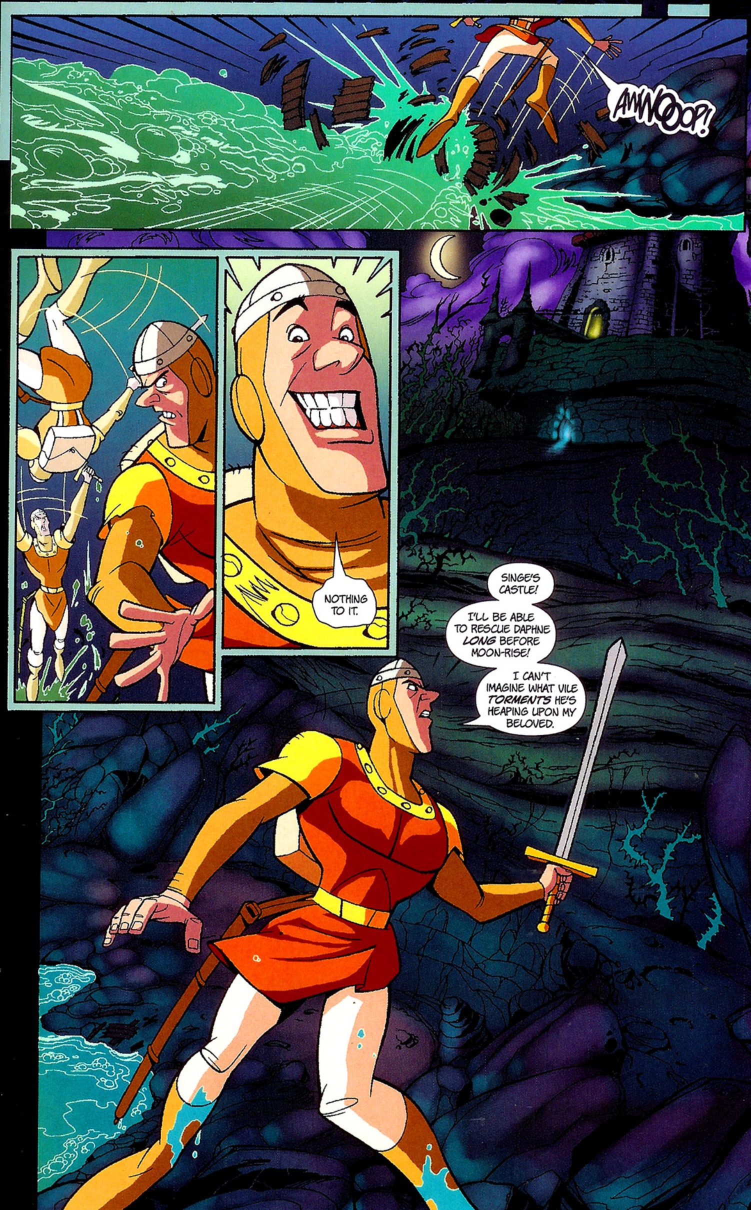

IT'S NICE THAT YOU CAN'T RUN VERY FAST THOUGH.
OOOPS.
HMMM, JUMP OFF A CLIFF OR FACE RAMPAGING MUD MEN?
YAAARRRR!

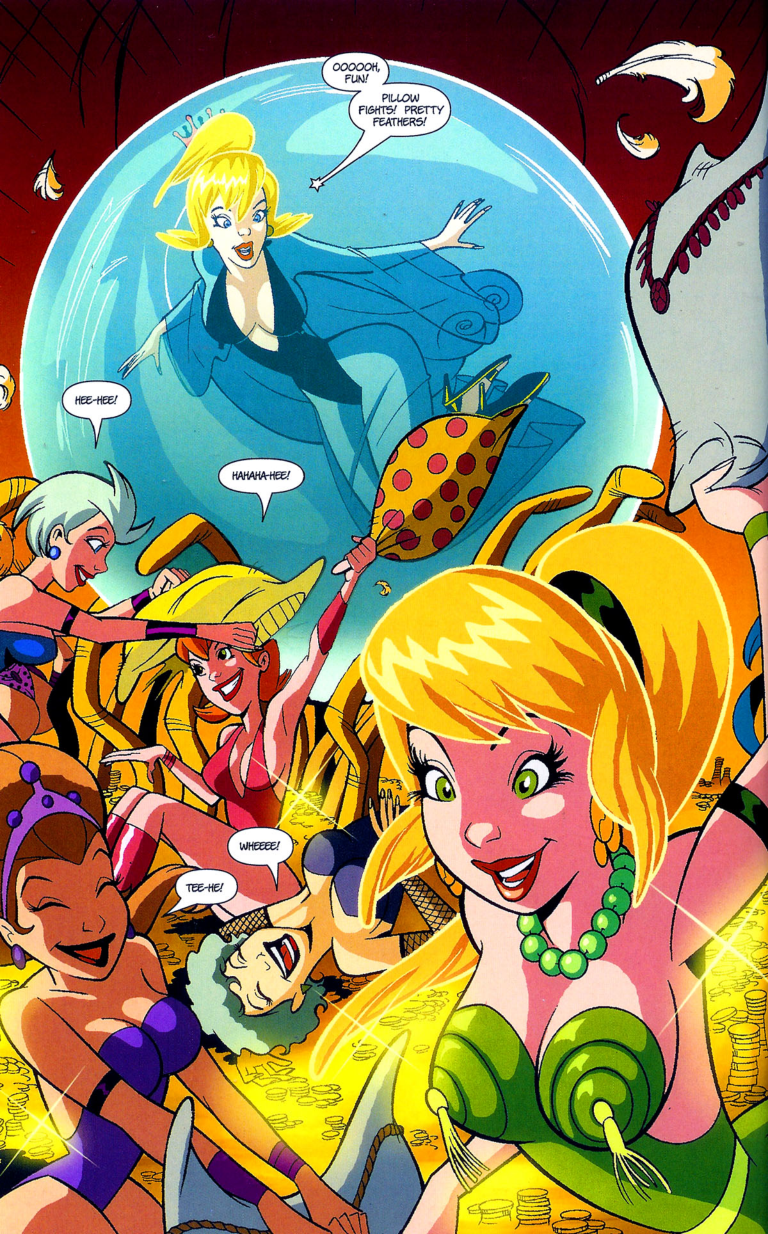


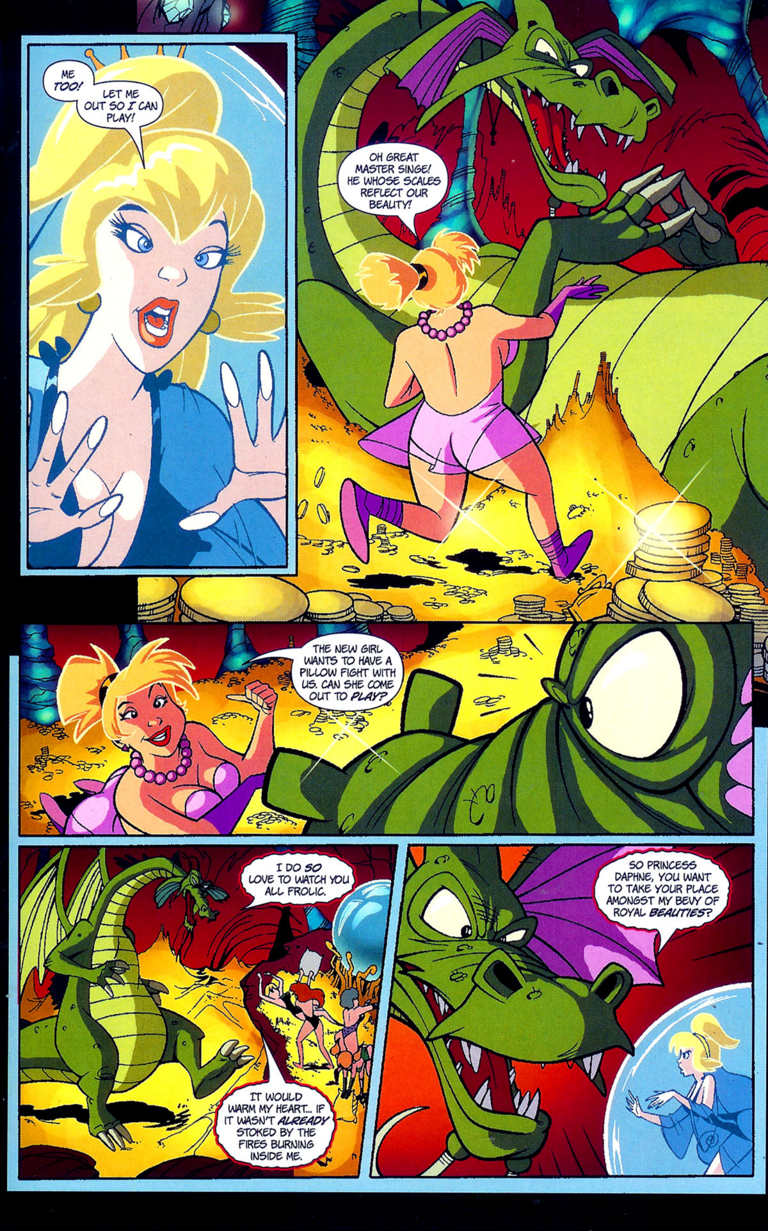
GASP
WWHOONNK
OWWW!
AT LEAST I'M NOT HOT ANYMORE.

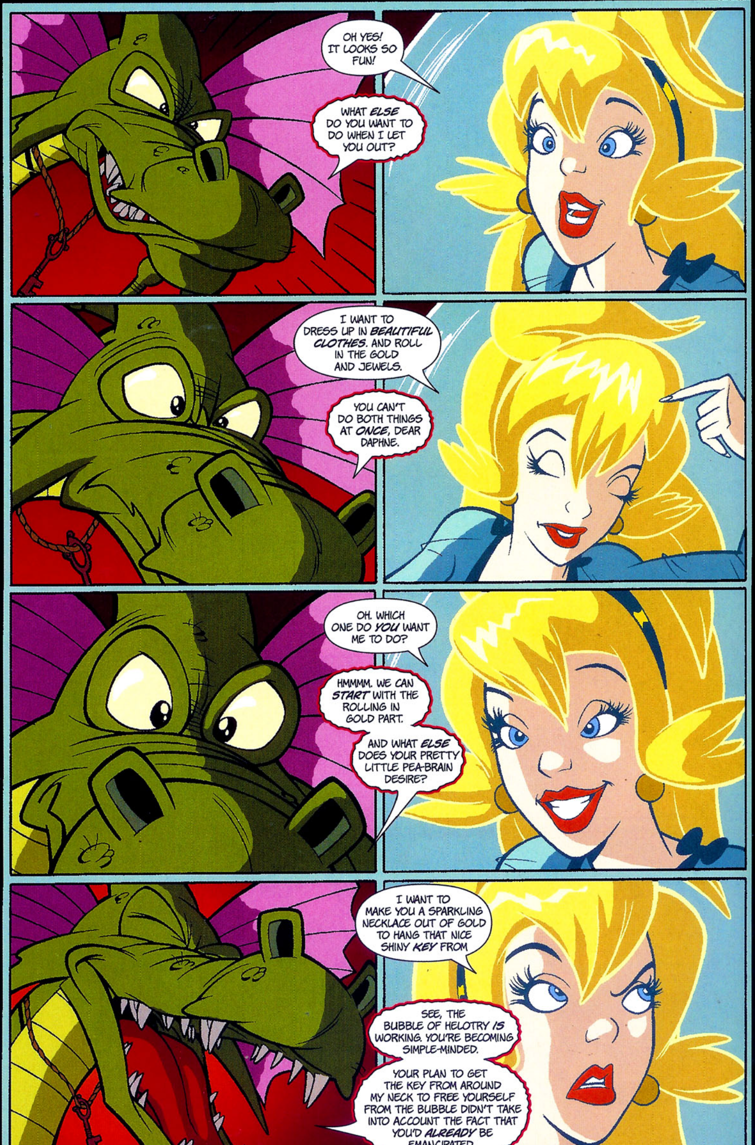

WAAAHEEE!
HACK HACK
IF I CAN JOUST BLINDFOLDED WHILE RIDING A CAMEL, I CAN DO *THIS*...

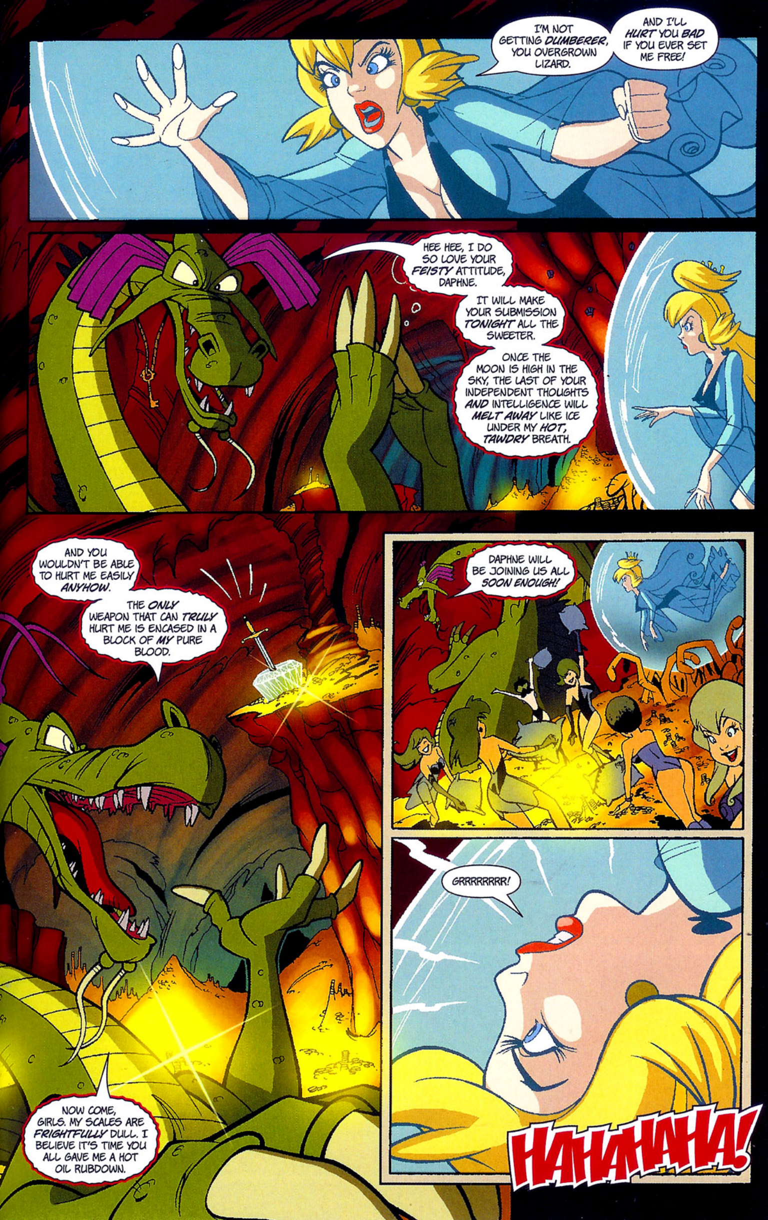

GULP
TURN! TURN!
MADE- IT- OUT- A- LIVE!

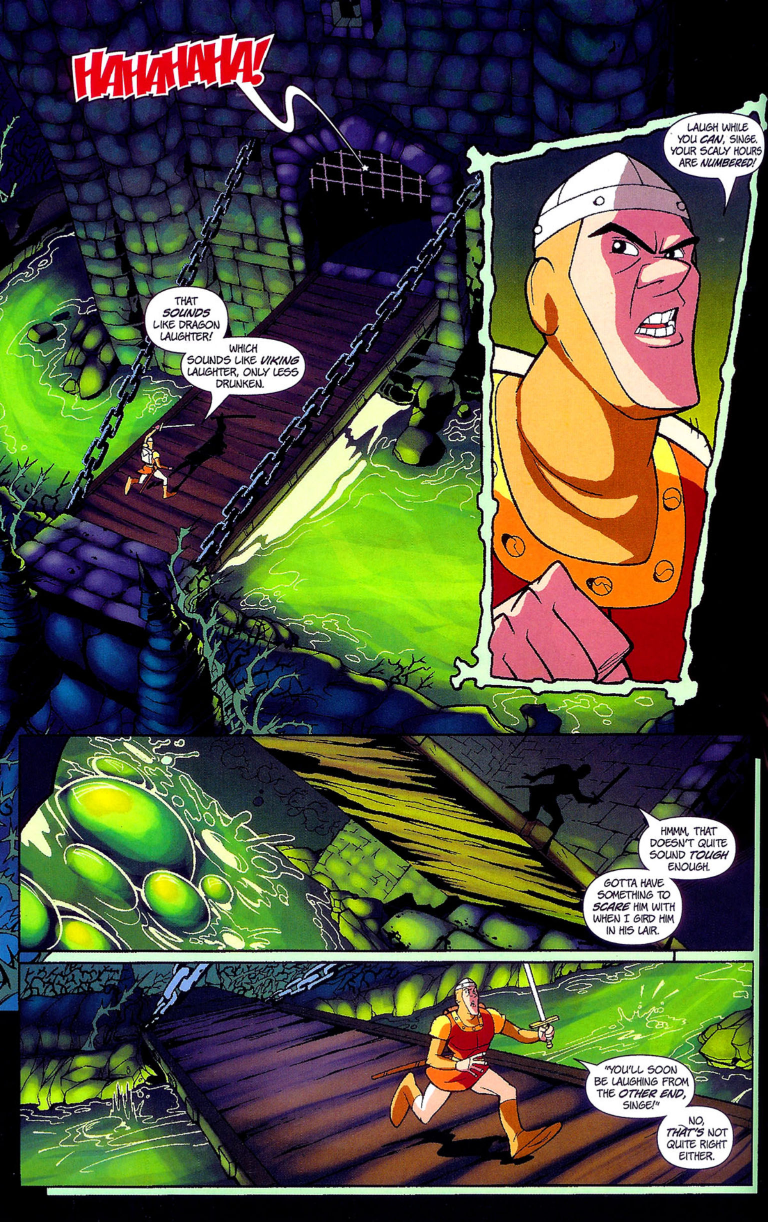

AWWOOOP!
NOTHING TO IT.
SINGE'S CASTLE!
I'LL BE ABLE TO RESCUE DAPHNE *LONG* BEFORE MOON-RISE!
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT VILE *TORMENTS* HE'S HEAPING UPON MY BELOVED.

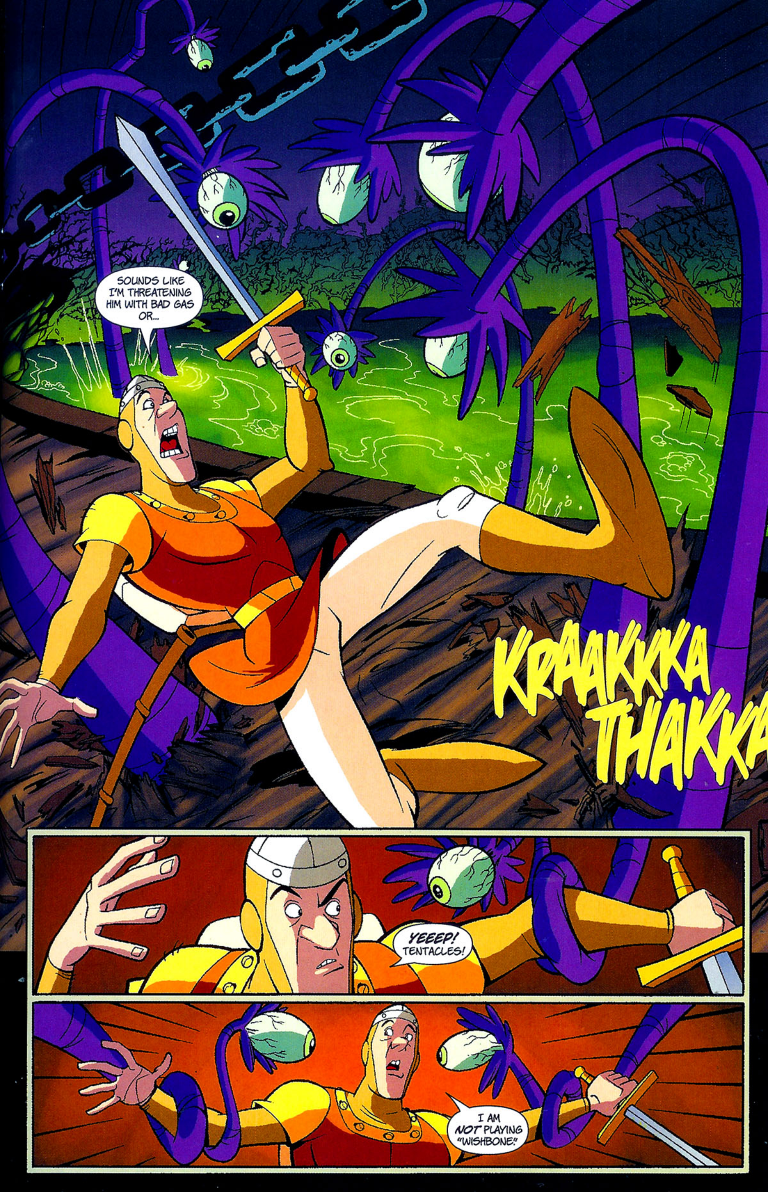

OOOOOH, FUN!
PILLOW FIGHTS! PRETTY FEATHERS!
HEE-HEE!
HAHAHA-HEE!
WHEEEE!
TEE-HE!

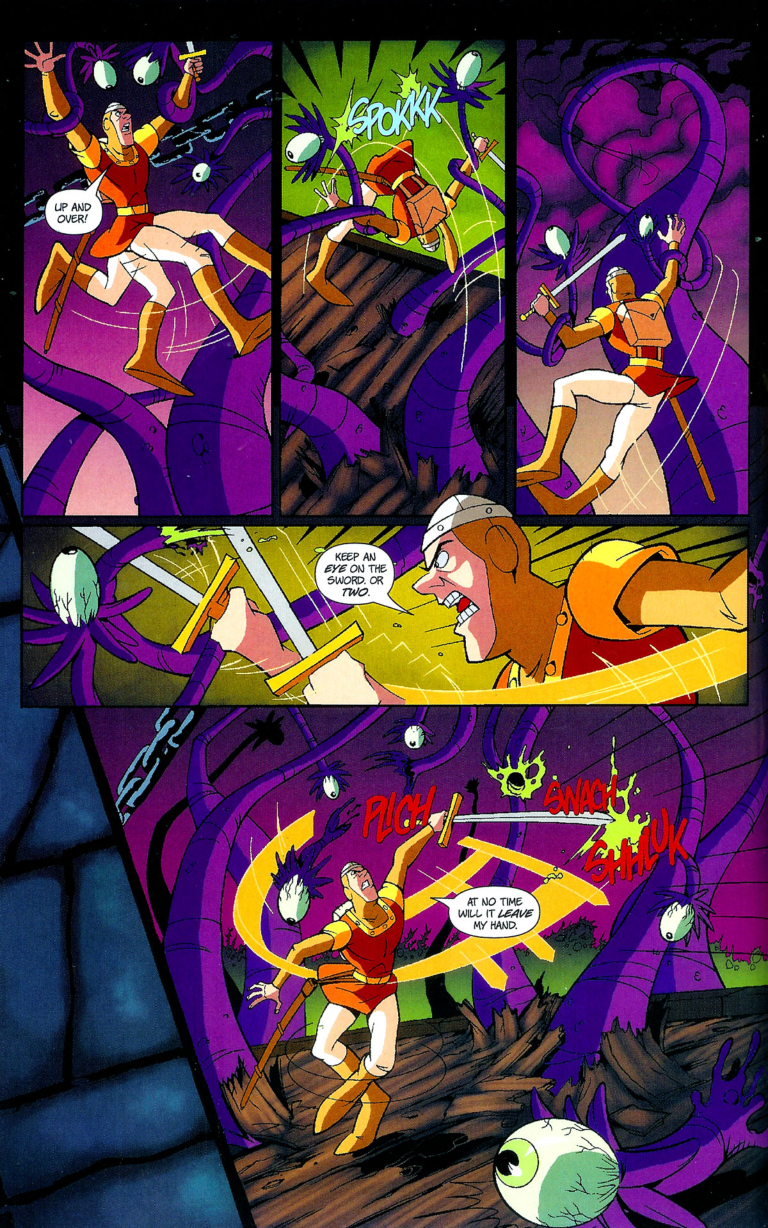

ME *TOO!*
LET ME OUT SO *I* CAN PLAY!
OH GREAT MASTER SINGE! HE WHOSE SCALES REFLECT OUR BEAUTY!
THE NEW GIRL WANTS TO HAVE A PILLOW FIGHT WITH US. CAN SHE COME OUT TO *PLAY?*
I DO *SO* LOVE TO WATCH YOU ALL FROLIC.
IT WOULD WARM MY HEART... IF IT WASN'T *ALREADY* STOKED BY THE FIRES BURNING INSIDE ME.
SO PRINCESS DAPHNE, YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE AMONGST MY BEVY OF ROYAL *BEAUTIES?*

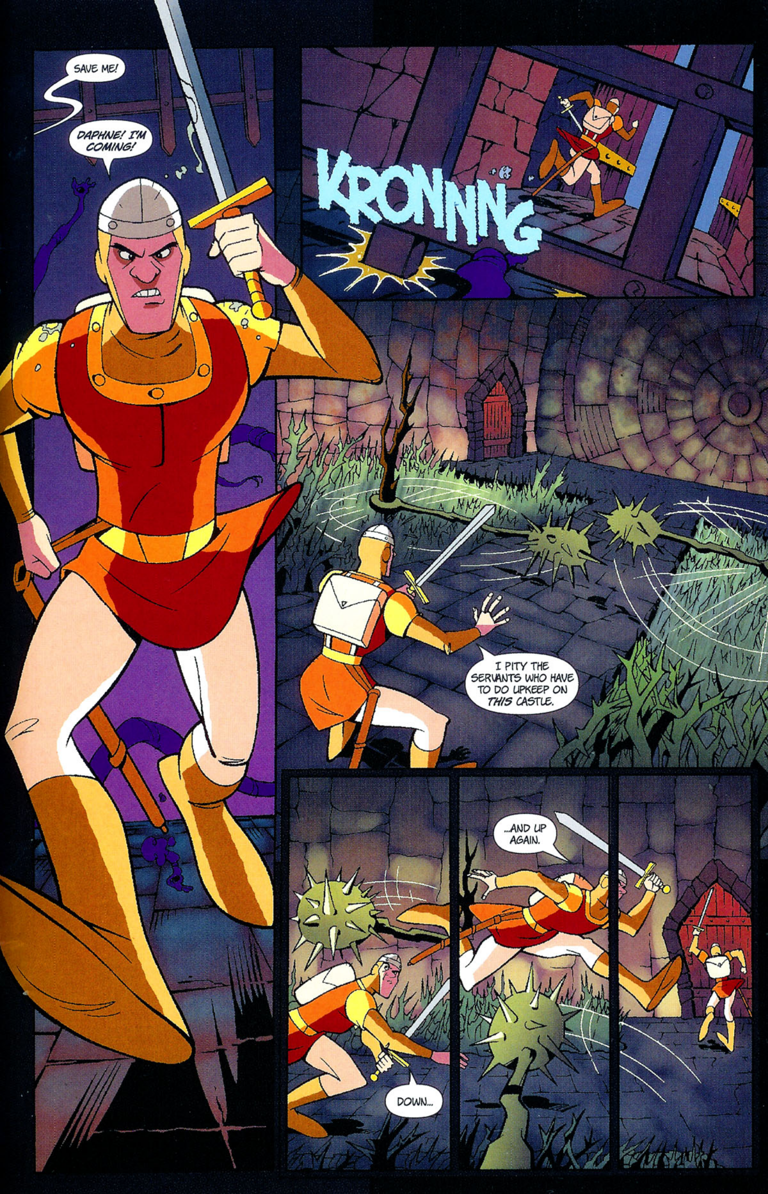

OH YES! IT LOOKS SO FUN!
WHAT *ELSE* DO YOU WANT TO DO WHEN I LET YOU OUT?
I WANT TO DRESS UP IN *BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES*. AND ROLL IN THE GOLD AND JEWELS.
YOU CAN'T DO BOTH THINGS AT *ONCE*, DEAR DAPHNE.
OH. WHICH ONE DO *YOU* WANT ME TO DO?
HMMMM. WE CAN *START* WITH THE ROLLING IN GOLD PART.
AND WHAT *ELSE* DOES YOUR PRETTY LITTLE PEA-BRAIN DESIRE?
I WANT TO MAKE YOU A SPARKLING NECKLACE OUT OF GOLD TO HANG THAT NICE SHINY *KEY* FROM
SEE, THE BUBBLE OF HELOTRY *IS* WORKING. YOU'RE BECOMING SIMPLE-MINDED.
YOUR PLAN TO GET THE KEY FROM AROUND MY NECK TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THE BUBBLE DIDN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT YOU'D *ALREADY* BE EMANCIPATED.

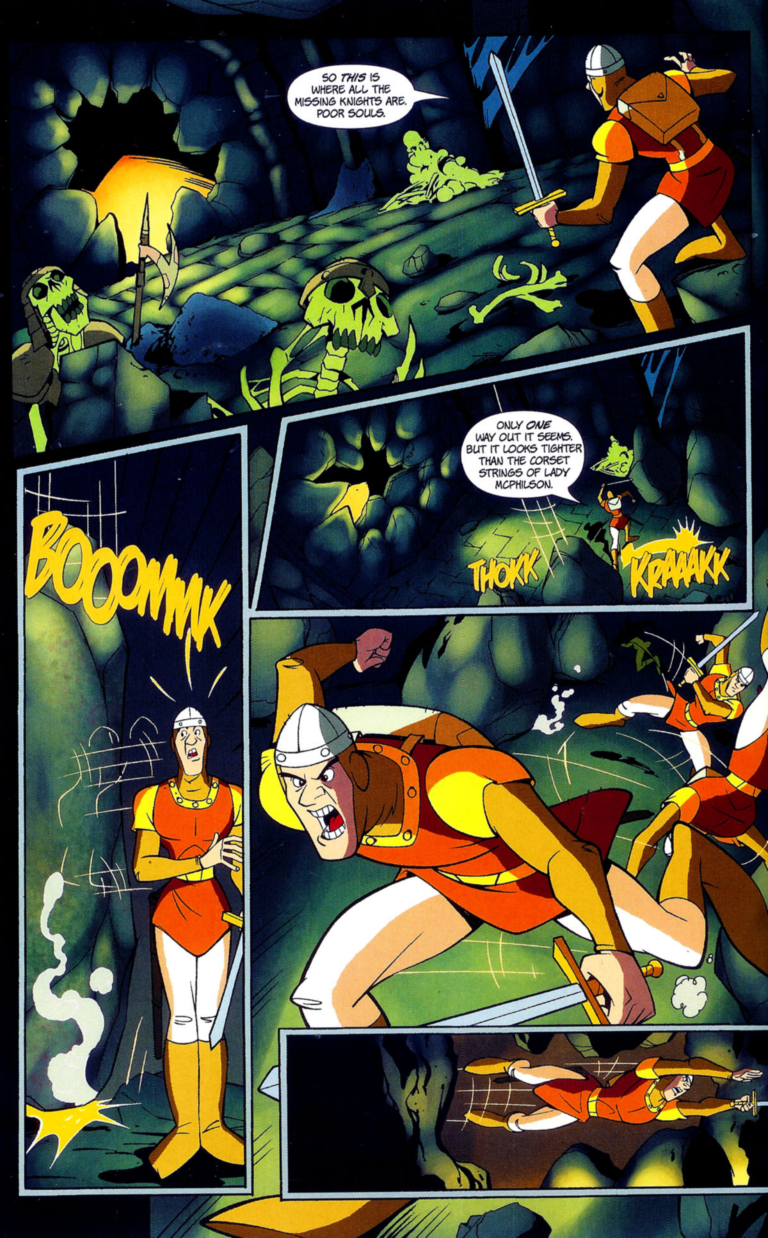

I'M NOT GETTING *DUMBERER*, YOU OVERGROWN LIZARD.
AND I'LL *HURT* YOU *BAD* IF YOU EVER SET ME FREE!
HEE HEE, I DO SO LOVE YOUR *FEISTY* ATTITUDE, DAPHNE.
IT WILL MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION *TONIGHT* ALL THE SWEETER.
ONCE THE MOON IS HIGH IN THE SKY, THE LAST OF YOUR INDEPENDENT THOUGHTS *AND* INTELLIGENCE WILL *MELT AWAY* LIKE ICE UNDER MY *HOT, TAWDRY* BREATH.
AND YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HURT ME EASILY *ANYHOW*.
THE *ONLY* WEAPON THAT CAN *TRULY* HURT ME IS ENCASED IN A BLOCK OF *MY* PURE BLOOD.
NOW COME, GIRLS. MY SCALES ARE *FRIGHTFULLY* DULL. I BELIEVE IT'S TIME YOU ALL GAVE ME A HOT OIL RUBDOWN.
DAPHNE WILL BE JOINING US ALL *SOON ENOUGH!*
GRRRRRRRR!
HAHAHAHA!

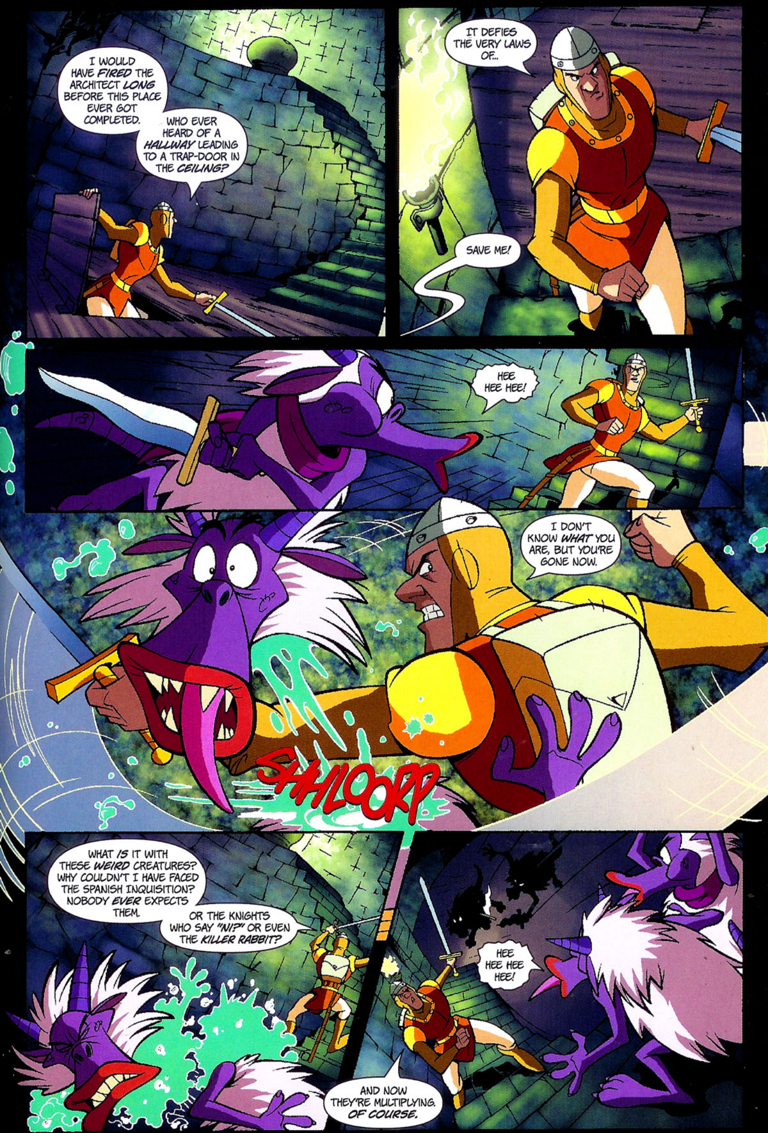

HAHAHAHA!
LAUGH WHILE YOU *CAN*, SINGE. YOUR SCALY HOURS ARE *NUMBERED!*
THAT *SOUNDS* LIKE DRAGON LAUGHTER!
WHICH SOUNDS LIKE *VIKING* LAUGHTER, ONLY LESS DRUNKEN.
HMMM, THAT DOESN'T QUITE SOUND *TOUGH* ENOUGH.
GOTTA HAVE SOMETHING TO *SCARE* HIM WITH WHEN I GIRD HIM IN HIS LAIR.
"YOU'LL SOON BE LAUGHING FROM THE *OTHER END*, SINGE!"
NO, *THAT'S* NOT QUITE RIGHT EITHER.

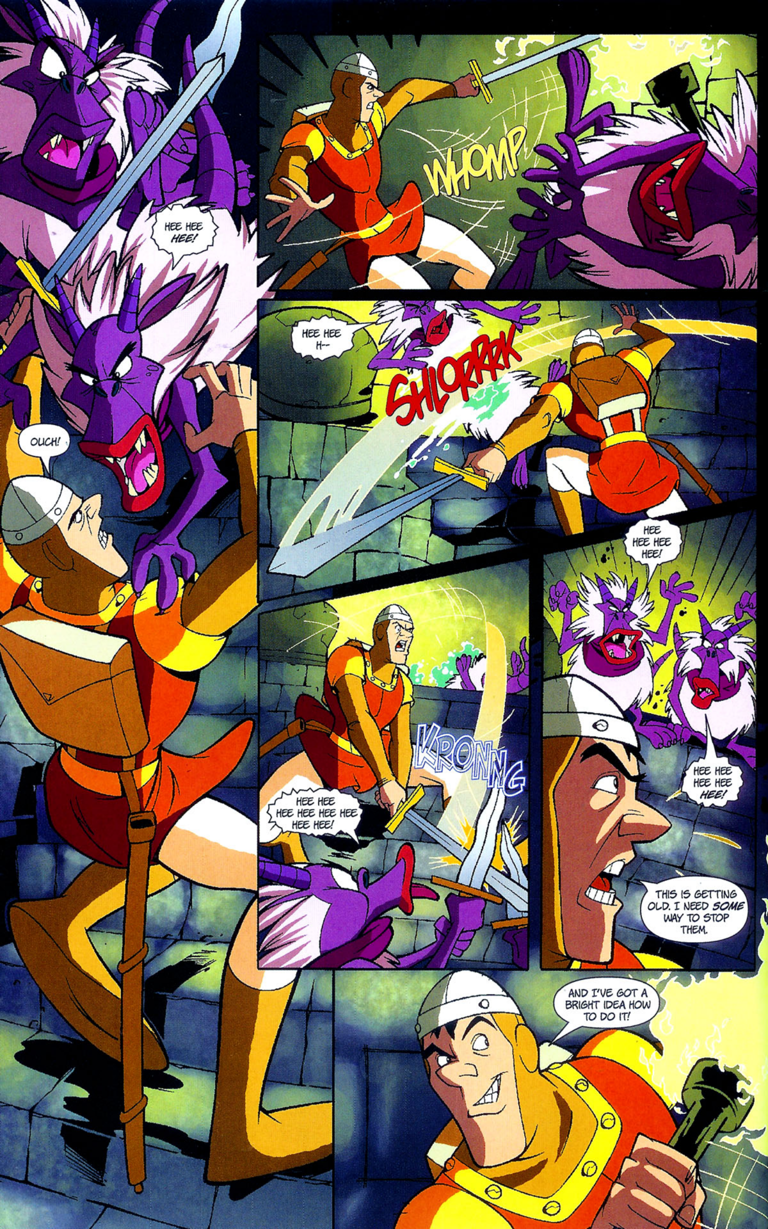

SOUNDS LIKE I'M THREATENING HIM WITH BAD GAS OR...
KRAAKKA THAKKA
YEEEP! TENTACLES!
I AM *NOT* PLAYING "WISHBONE."

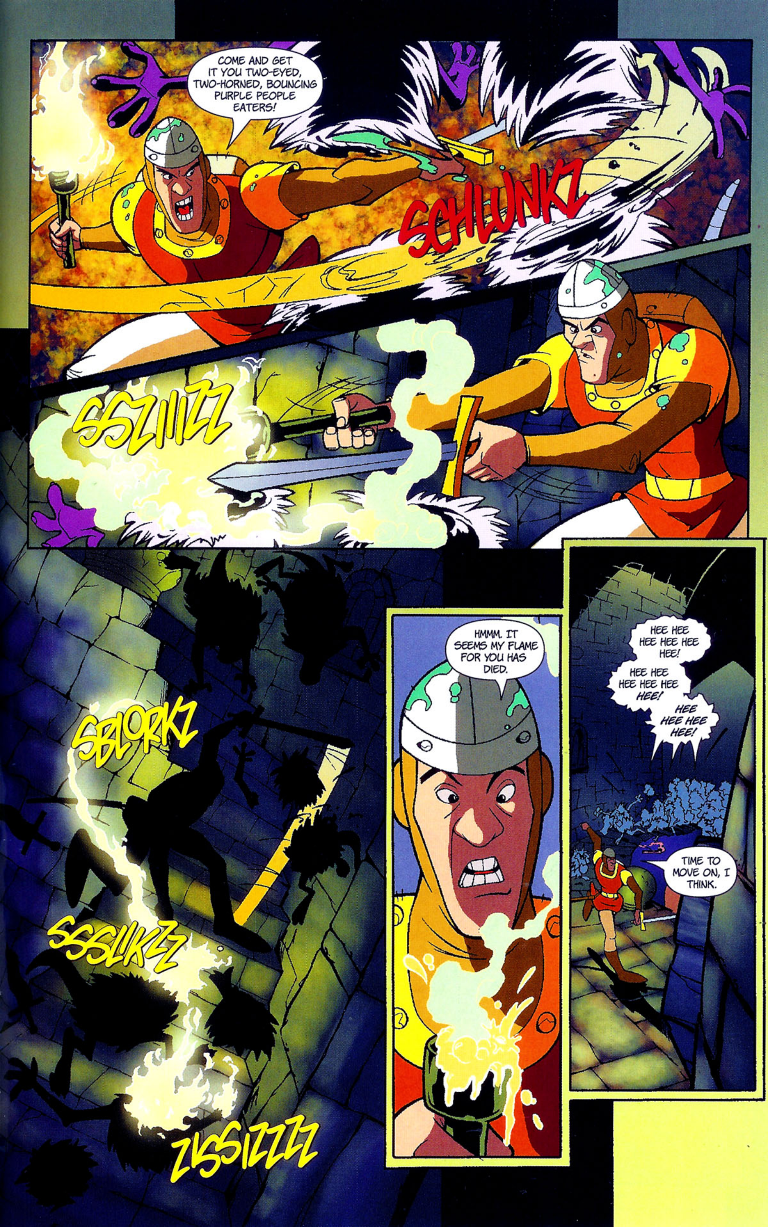

UP AND OVER!
SPOKKK
KEEP AN *EYE* ON THE SWORD. OR *TWO*.
PLICH
SWACH
SHHLUK
AT NO TIME WILL IT *LEAVE* MY HAND.

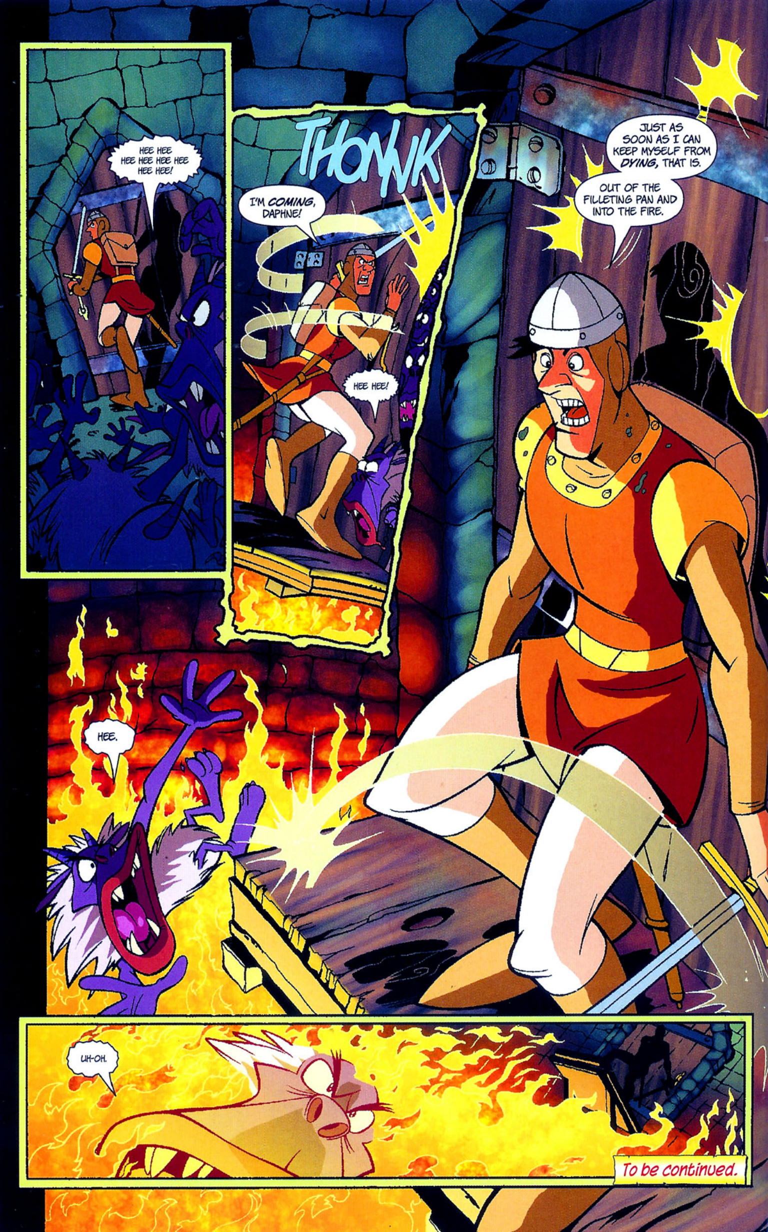

SAVE ME!
DAPHNE! I'M COMING!
KRONNNG
I PITY THE SERVANTS WHO HAVE TO DO UPKEEP ON *THIS* CASTLE.
DOWN...
...AND UP AGAIN.


SO *THIS* IS WHERE ALL THE MISSING KNIGHTS ARE. POOR SOULS.
ONLY *ONE* WAY OUT IT SEEMS. BUT IT LOOKS TIGHTER THAN THE CORSET STRINGS OF LADY MCPHILSON.
THOKK
KRAAAKK
BOOOMMK


I WOULD HAVE *FIRED* THE ARCHITECT *LONG* BEFORE THIS PLACE EVER GOT COMPLETED.
WHO EVER HEARD OF A *HALLWAY* LEADING TO A TRAP-DOOR IN THE *CEILING?*
IT DEFIES THE VERY LAWS OF...
SAVE ME!
HEE HEE HEE!
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU ARE, BUT YOU'RE GONE NOW.
SHHLOORP
WHAT *IS* IT WITH THESE *WEIRD* CREATURES? WHY COULDN'T I HAVE FACED THE SPANISH INQUISITION? NOBODY *EVER* EXPECTS THEM.
OR THE KNIGHTS WHO SAY *"NI?"* OR EVEN THE *KILLER RABBIT?*
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
AND NOW THEY'RE MULTIPLYING. *OF COURSE.*


HEE HEE
HEE!
OUCH!
WHOMP
HEE HEE
H--
SHLORRRK
HEE
HEE HEE
HEE!
KRONNNG
HEE HEE
HEE HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE!
HEE HEE
HEE HEE
HEE!
THIS IS GETTING OLD. I NEED SOME WAY TO STOP THEM.
AND I'VE GOT A BRIGHT IDEA HOW TO DO IT!


COME AND GET IT YOU TWO-EYED, TWO-HORNED, BOUNCING PURPLE PEOPLE EATERS!
SCHLUNKZ
SSZIIIZZ
SBLORKZ
SSSLIKZZ
ZISSIZZZZ
HMMM. IT SEEMS MY FLAME FOR YOU HAS DIED.
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
TIME TO MOVE ON, I THINK.


HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
THONNK
I'M *COMING*, DAPHNE!
HEE HEE!
JUST AS SOON AS I CAN KEEP MYSELF FROM *DYING*, THAT IS.
OUT OF THE FILLETING PAN AND INTO THE FIRE.
HEE.
UH-OH.
To be continued.

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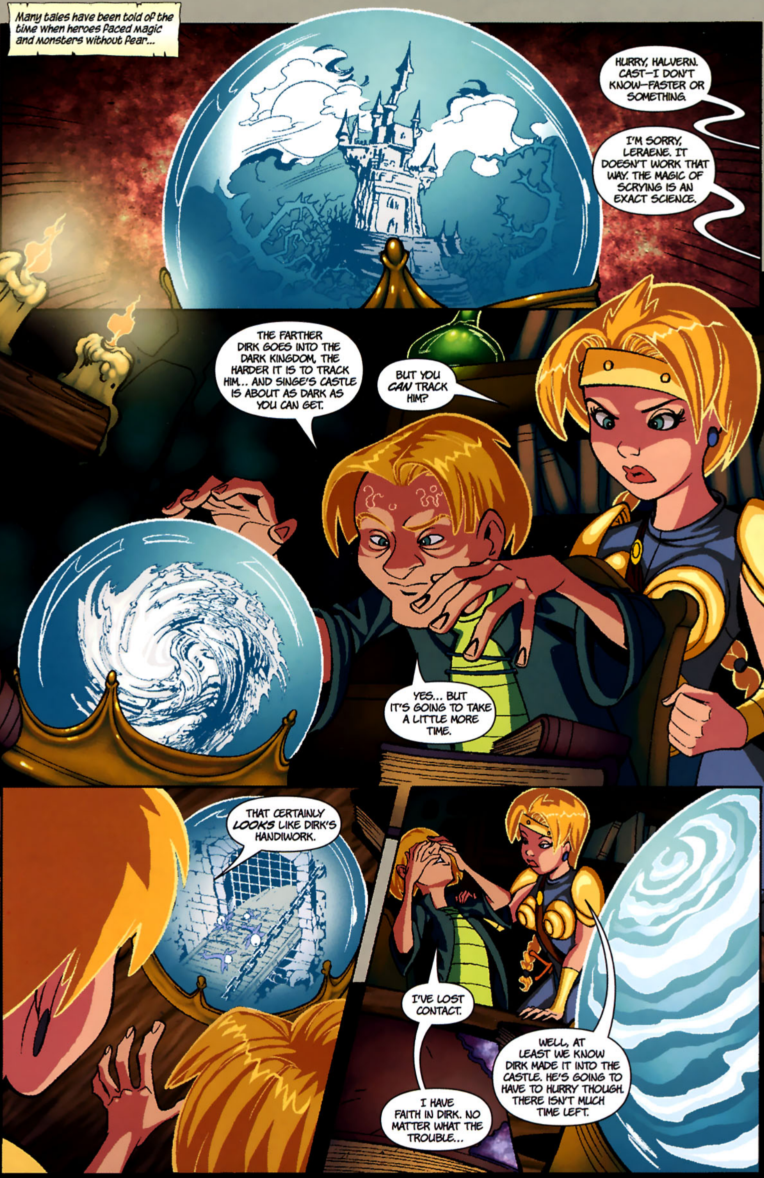
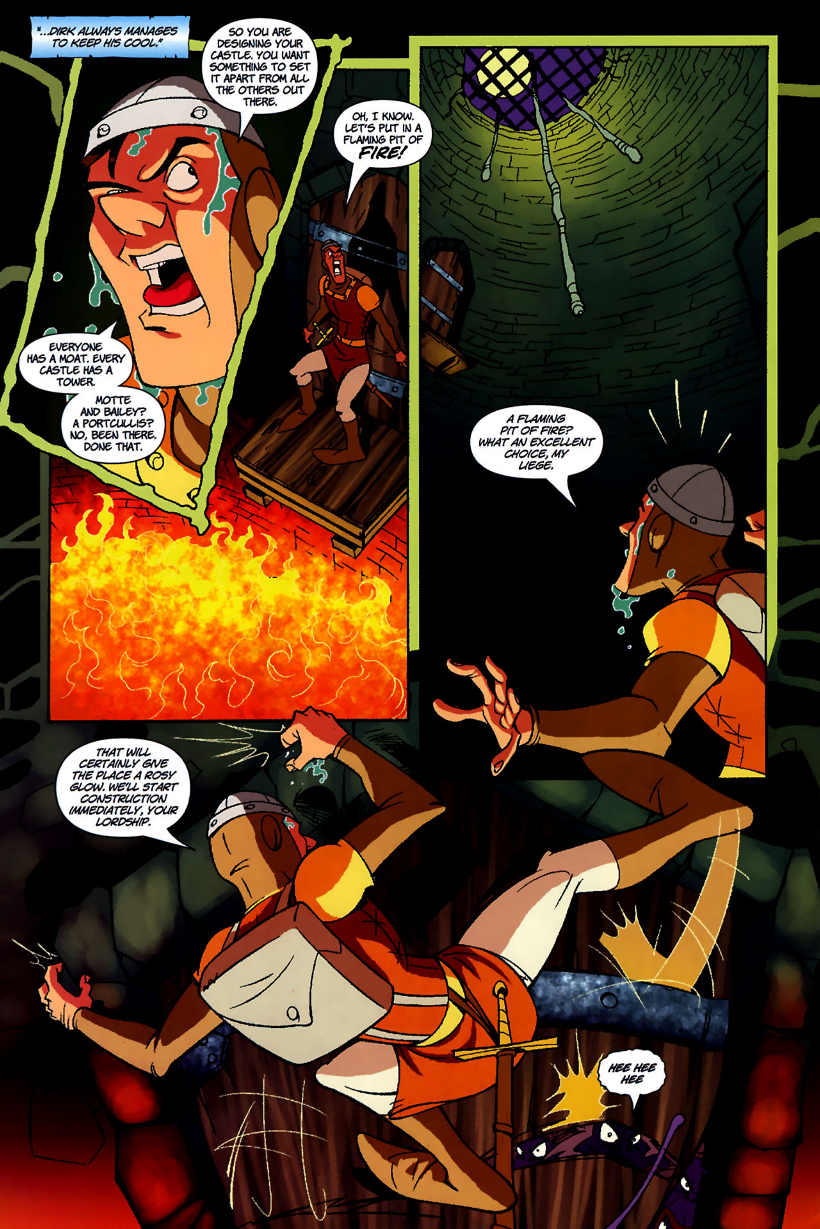
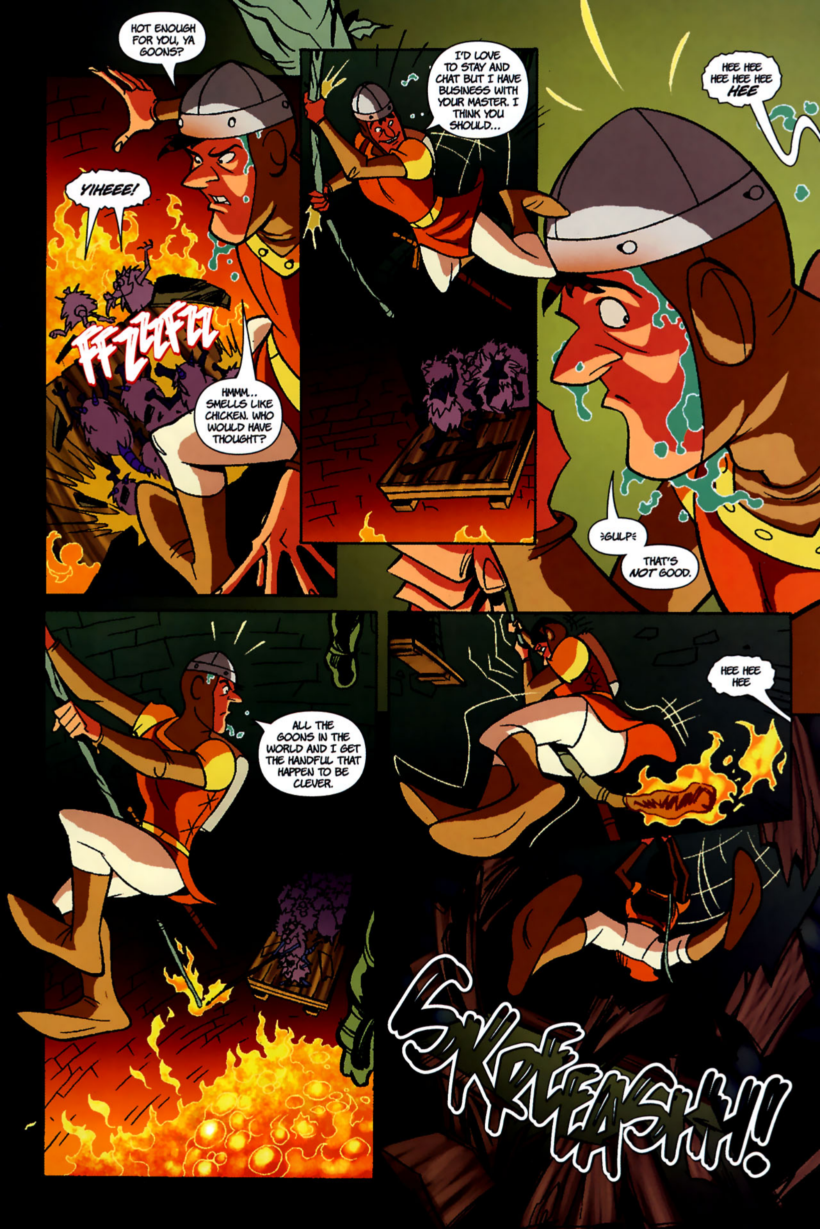
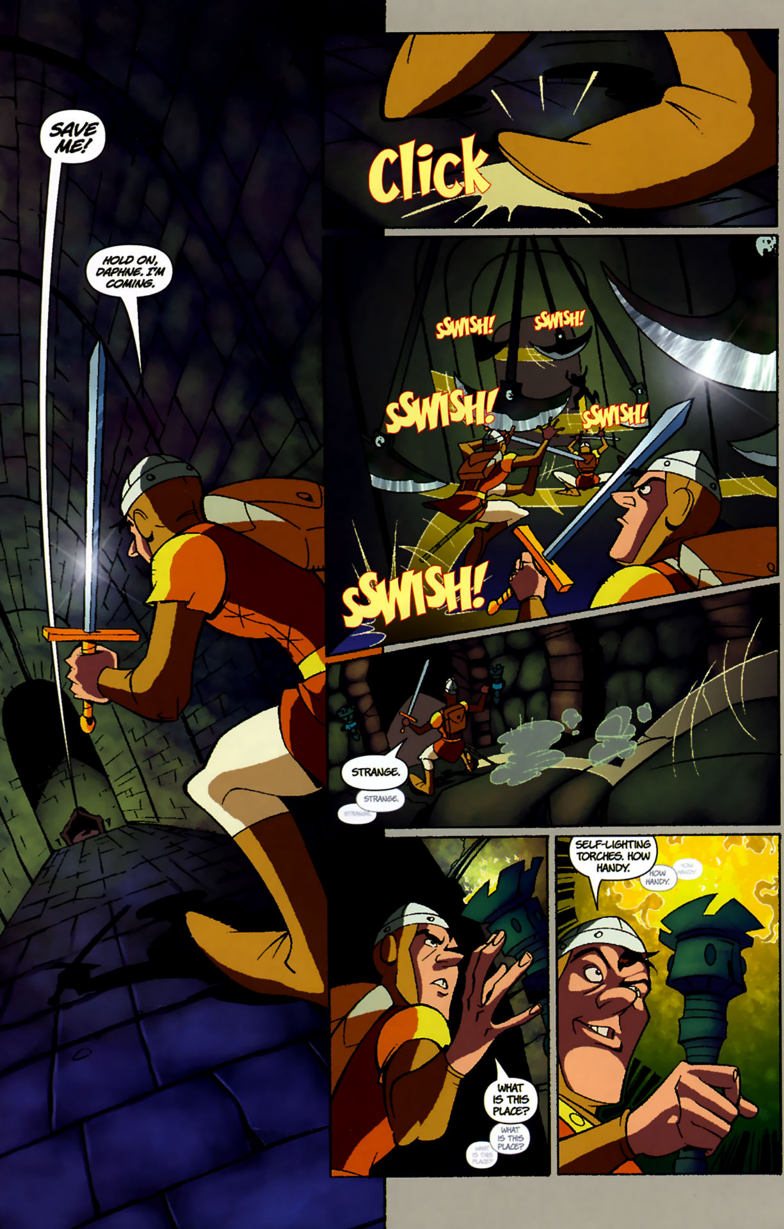
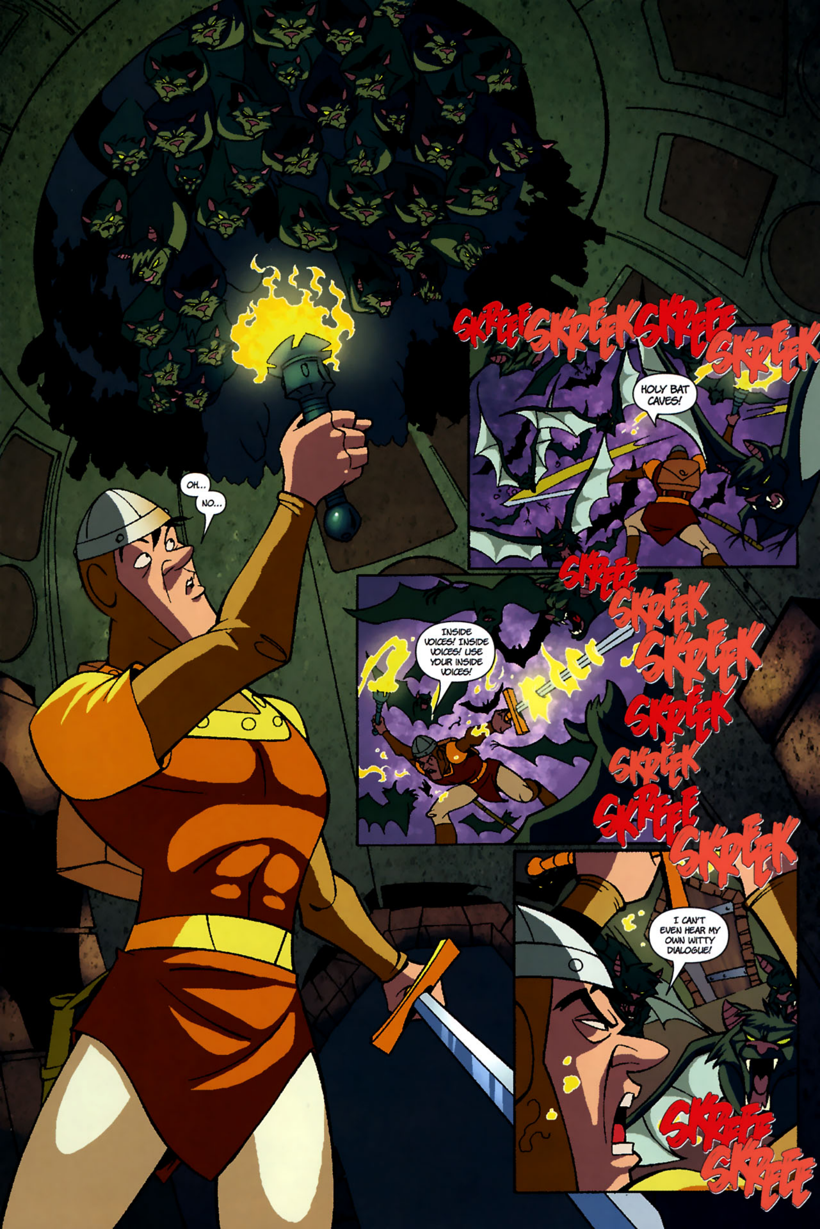
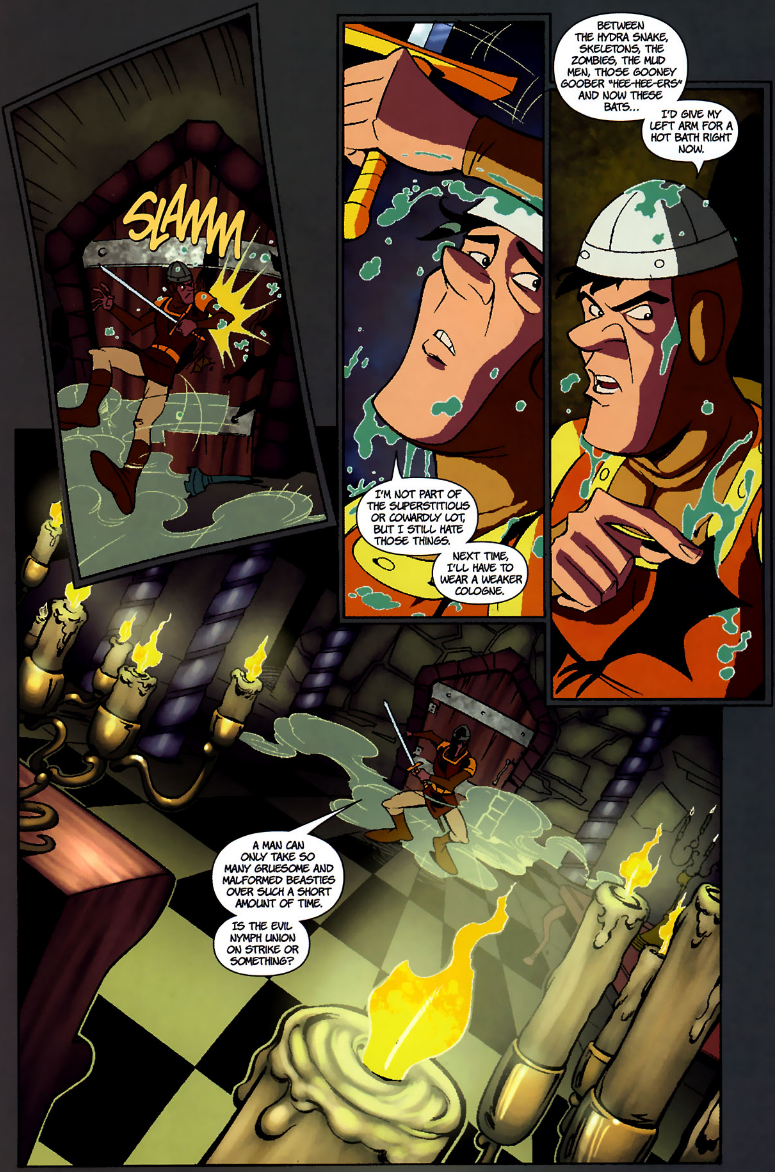

Many tales have been told of the time when heroes faced magic and monsters without fear...
HURRY, HALVERN. CAST—I DON'T KNOW—FASTER OR SOMETHING.
I'M SORRY, LERAENE. IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY. THE MAGIC OF SCRYING IS AN EXACT SCIENCE.
THE FARTHER DIRK GOES INTO THE DARK KINGDOM, THE HARDER IT IS TO TRACK HIM... AND SINGE'S CASTLE IS ABOUT AS DARK AS YOU CAN GET.
BUT YOU *CAN* TRACK HIM?
YES... BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE MORE TIME.
THAT CERTAINLY *LOOKS* LIKE DIRK'S HANDIWORK.
I'VE LOST CONTACT.
I HAVE FAITH IN DIRK. NO MATTER WHAT THE TROUBLE...
WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW DIRK MADE IT INTO THE CASTLE. HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO HURRY THOUGH. THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT.

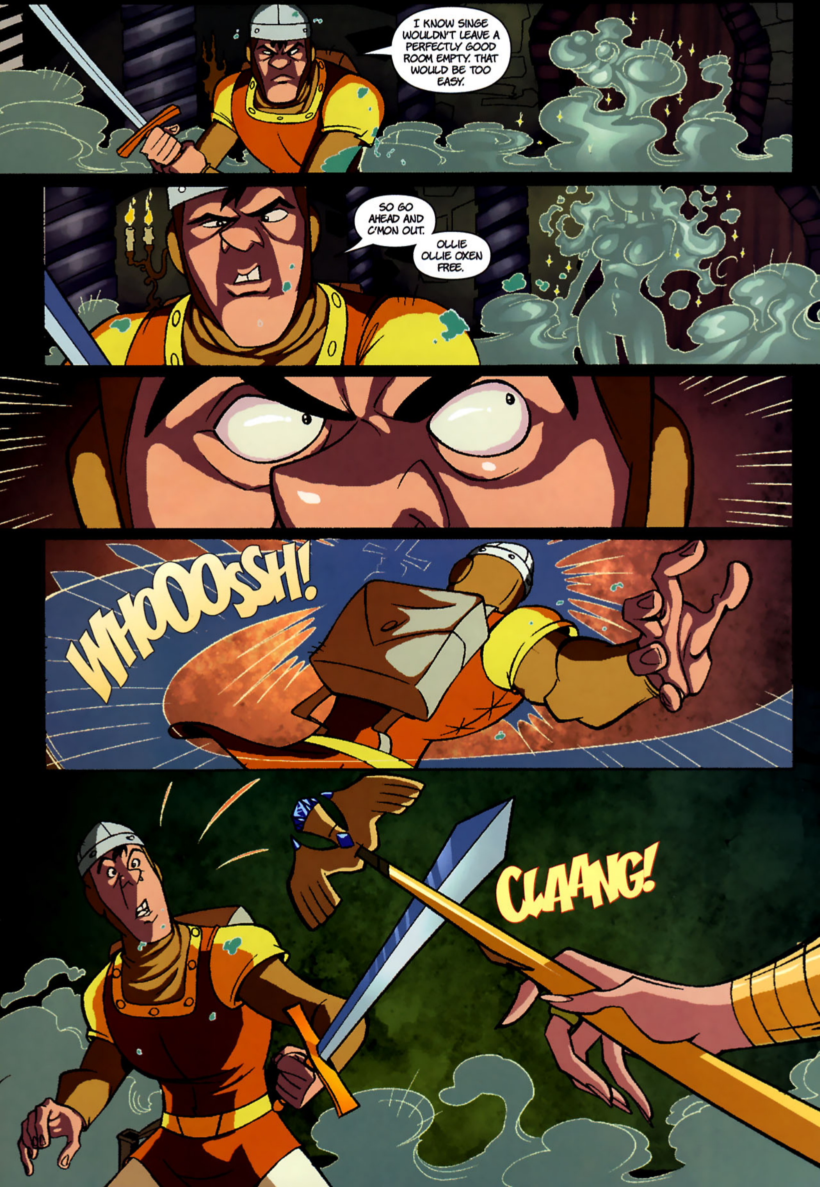

"...DIRK ALWAYS MANAGES TO KEEP HIS COOL."
SO YOU ARE DESIGNING YOUR CASTLE. YOU WANT SOMETHING TO SET IT APART FROM ALL THE OTHERS OUT THERE.
EVERYONE HAS A MOAT. EVERY CASTLE HAS A TOWER.
MOTTE AND BAILEY? A PORTCULLIS? NO, BEEN THERE. DONE THAT.
OH, I KNOW. LET'S PUT IN A FLAMING PIT OF FIRE!
A FLAMING PIT OF FIRE? WHAT AN EXCELLENT CHOICE, MY LIEGE.
THAT WILL CERTAINLY GIVE THE PLACE A ROSY GLOW. WE'LL START CONSTRUCTION IMMEDIATELY, YOUR LORDSHIP.
HEE HEE HEE

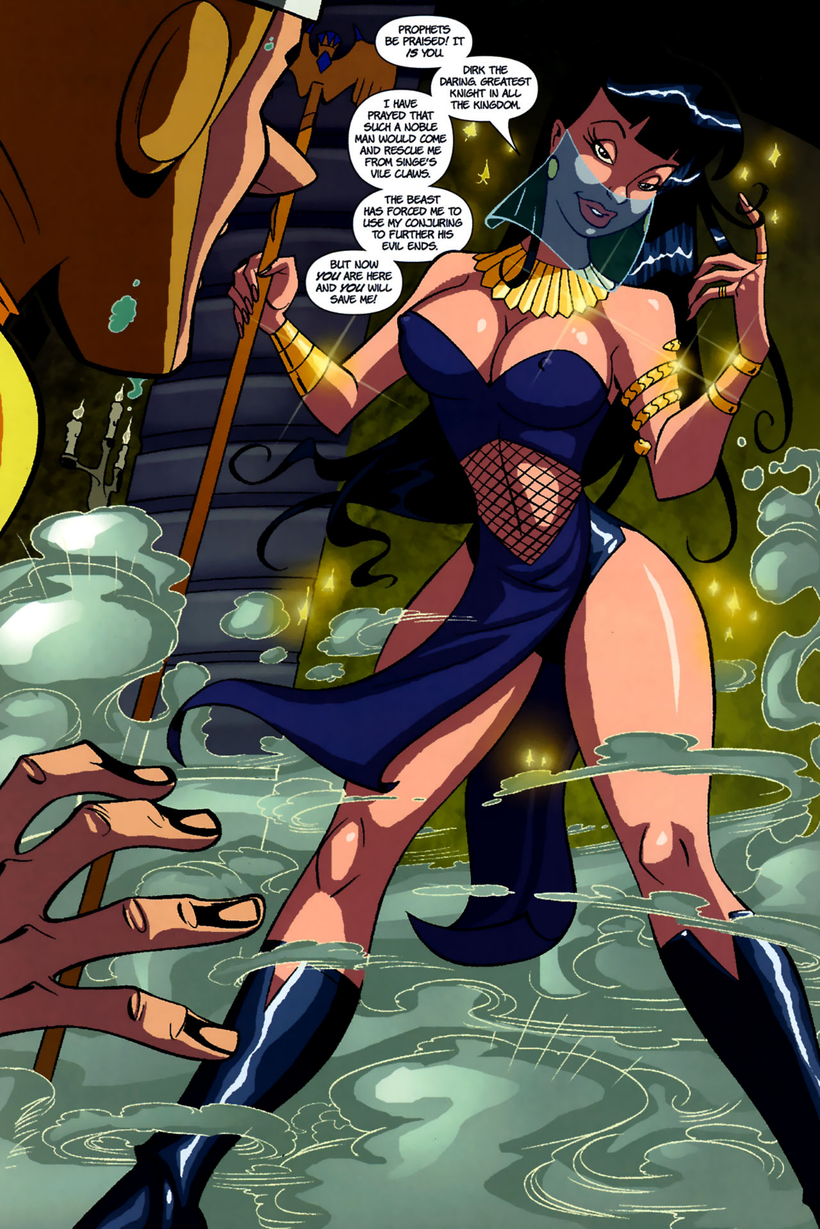

HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU, YA GOONS?
YIHEEE!
FFZZZFZZ
HMMM... SMELLS LIKE CHICKEN. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?
I'D LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT BUT I HAVE BUSINESS WITH YOUR MASTER. I THINK YOU SHOULD...
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE *HEE*
GULP
THAT'S *NOT* GOOD.
ALL THE GOONS IN THE WORLD AND I GET THE HANDFUL THAT HAPPEN TO BE CLEVER.
HEE HEE HEE
SKREEASHH!

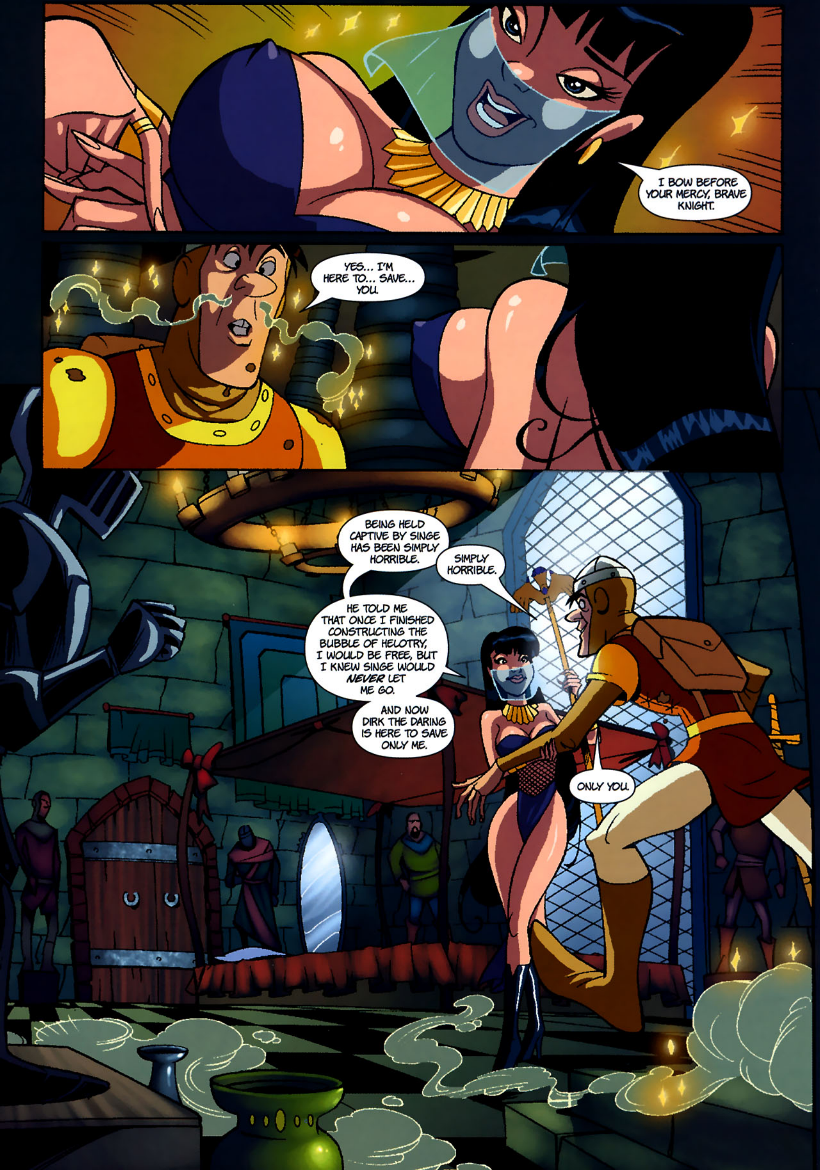

SAVE ME!
HOLD ON, DAPHNE. I'M COMING.
Click
SSWISH!
SSWISH!
SSWISH!
SSWISH!
SSWISH!
STRANGE.
STRANGE.
STRANGE.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
SELF-LIGHTING TORCHES. HOW HANDY.
HOW HANDY.
HOW HANDY.

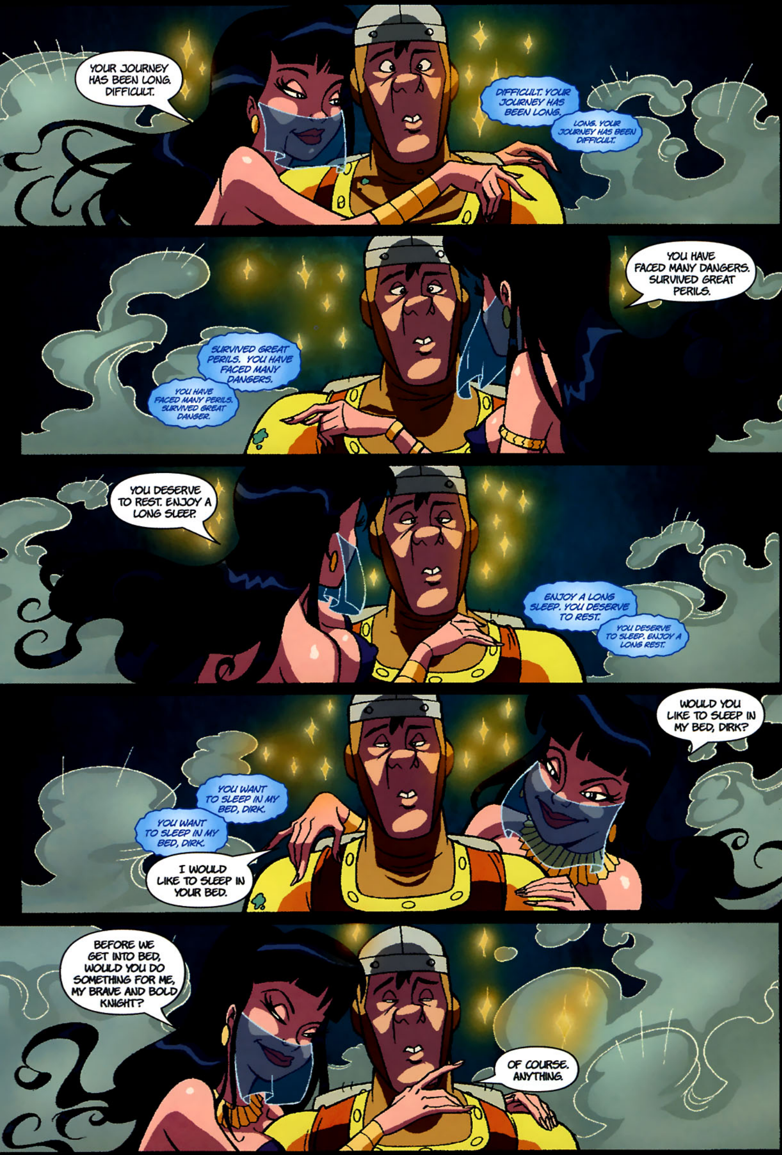

OH... NO...
SKREEE SKREEK SKREEE SKREEK
HOLY BAT CAVES!
SKREEE SKREEK SKREEK SKREEK SKREEK SKREEE SKREEK
INSIDE VOICES! INSIDE VOICES! USE YOUR INSIDE VOICES!
I CAN'T EVEN HEAR MY OWN WITTY DIALOGUE!
SKREEE SKREEE

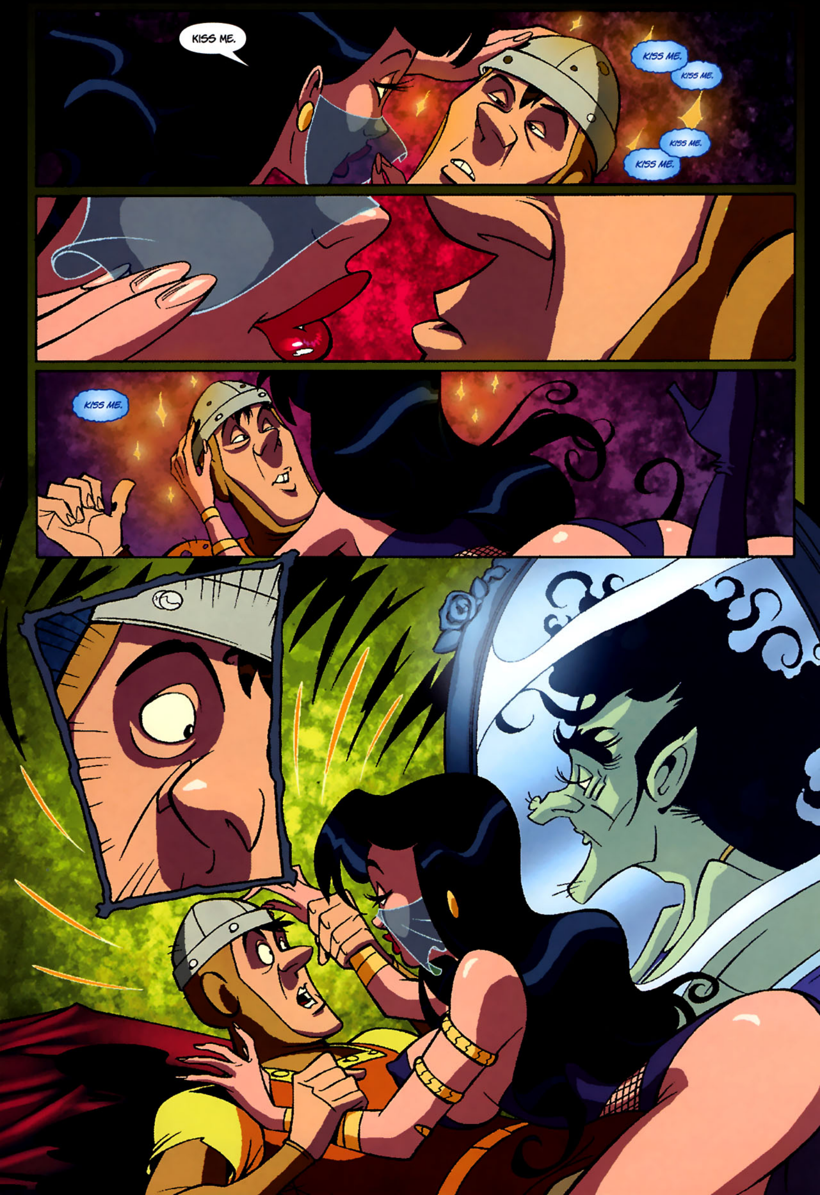

SLAMM
I'M NOT PART OF THE SUPERSTITIOUS OR COWARDLY LOT, BUT I STILL HATE THOSE THINGS.
NEXT TIME, I'LL HAVE TO WEAR A WEAKER COLOGNE.
BETWEEN THE HYDRA SNAKE, SKELETONS, THE ZOMBIES, THE MUD MEN, THOSE GOONEY GOOBER "HEE-HEE-ERS" AND NOW THESE BATS...
I'D GIVE MY LEFT ARM FOR A HOT BATH RIGHT NOW.
A MAN CAN ONLY TAKE SO MANY GRUESOME AND MALFORMED BEASTIES OVER SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.
IS THE EVIL NYMPH UNION ON STRIKE OR SOMETHING?

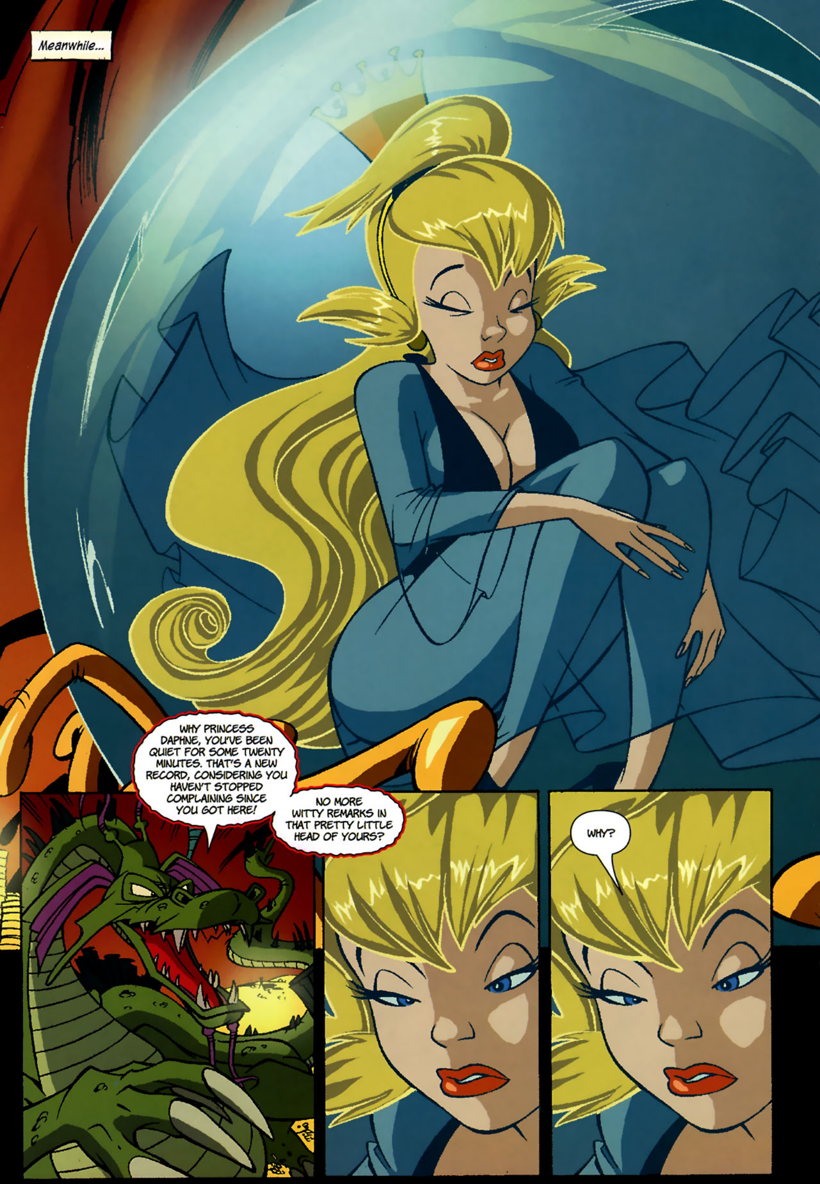

I KNOW SINGE WOULDN'T LEAVE A PERFECTLY GOOD ROOM EMPTY. THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY.
SO GO AHEAD AND C'MON OUT.
OLLIE OLLIE OXEN FREE.
WHOOOSSH!
CLAANG!

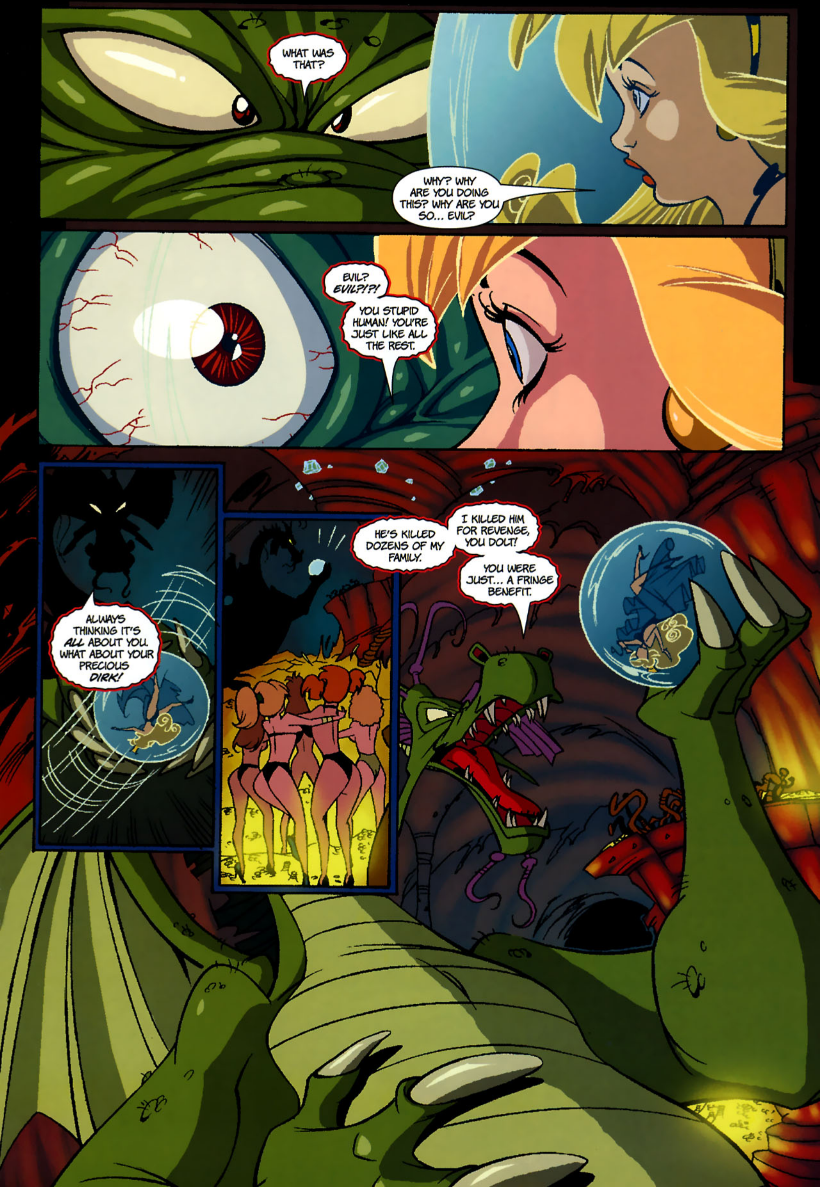

PROPHETS BE PRAISED! IT *IS* YOU.
DIRK THE DARING. GREATEST KNIGHT IN ALL THE KINGDOM.
I HAVE PRAYED THAT SUCH A NOBLE MAN WOULD COME AND RESCUE ME FROM SINGE'S VILE CLAWS.
THE BEAST HAS FORCED ME TO USE MY CONJURING TO FURTHER HIS EVIL ENDS.
BUT NOW *YOU* ARE HERE AND *YOU* WILL SAVE ME!

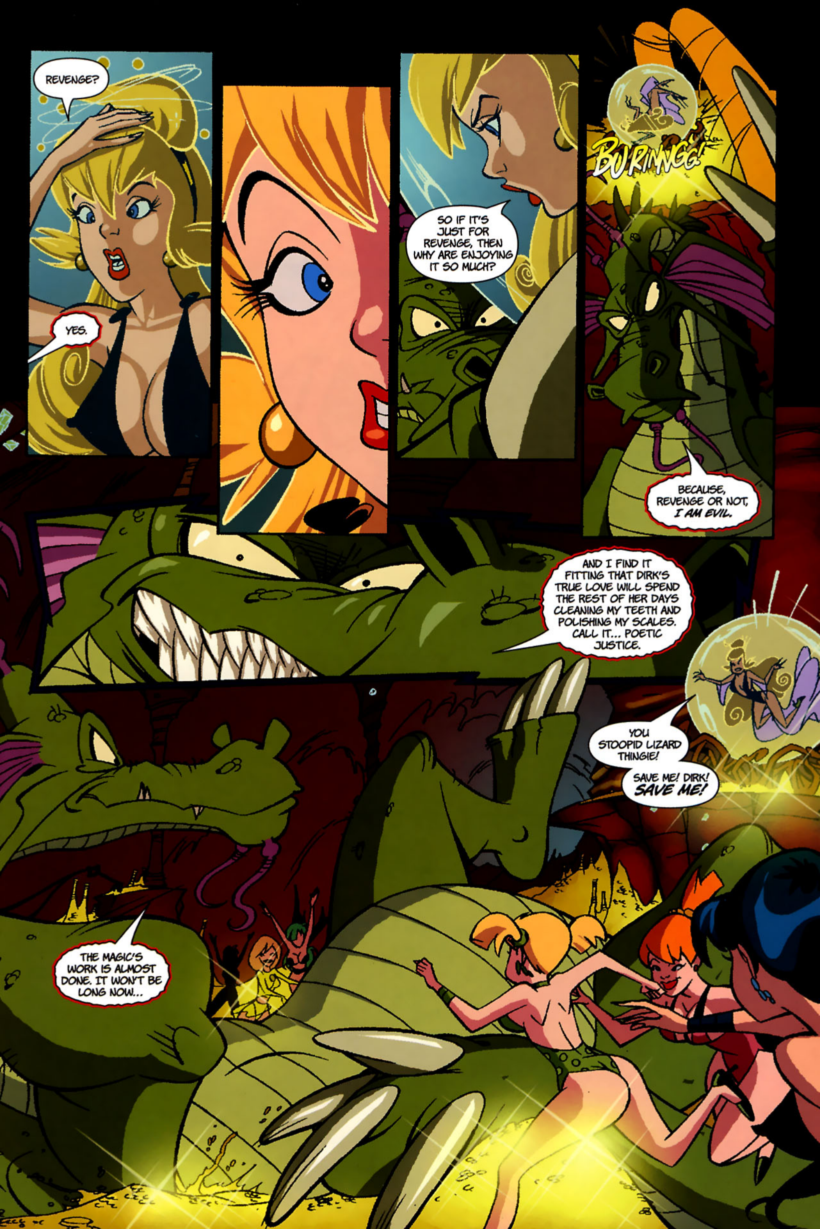

I BOW BEFORE YOUR MERCY, BRAVE KNIGHT.
YES... I'M HERE TO... SAVE... YOU.
BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY SINGE HAS BEEN SIMPLY HORRIBLE.
SIMPLY HORRIBLE.
HE TOLD ME THAT ONCE I FINISHED CONSTRUCTING THE BUBBLE OF HELOTRY, I WOULD BE FREE, BUT I KNEW SINGE WOULD *NEVER* LET ME GO.
AND NOW DIRK THE DARING IS HERE TO SAVE ONLY ME.
ONLY YOU.

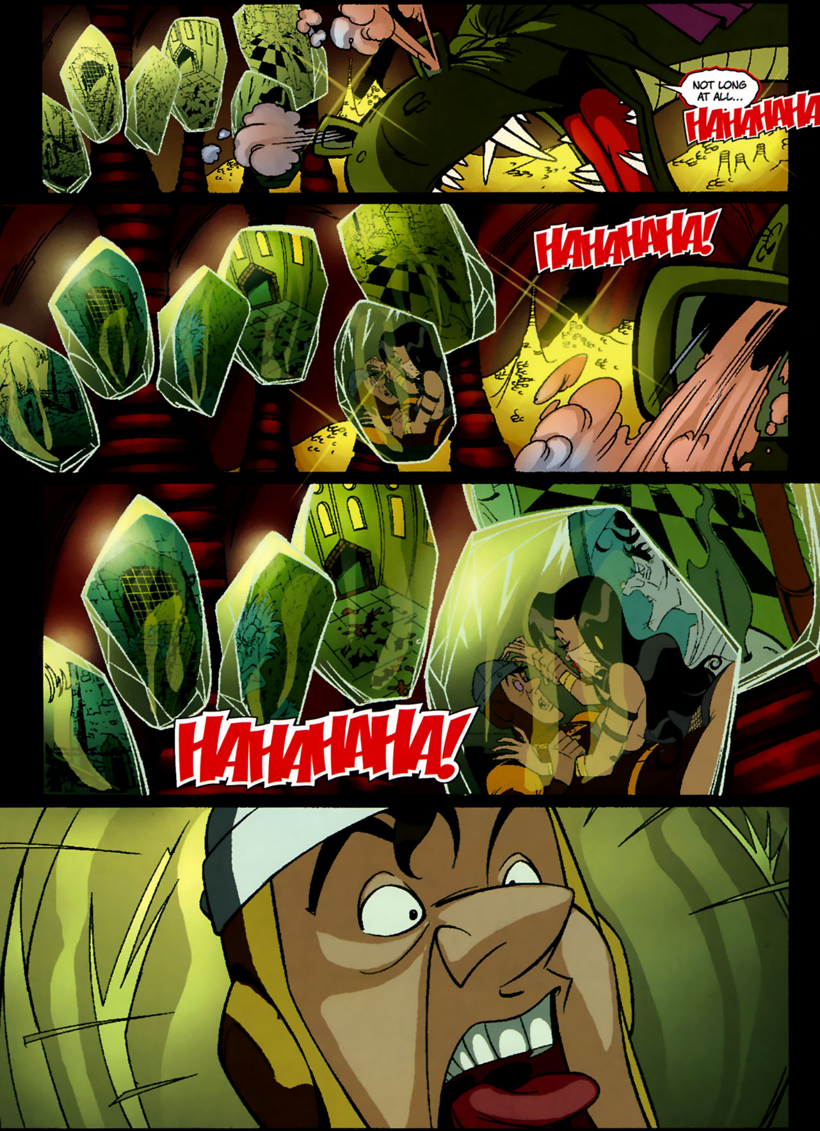

YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN LONG. DIFFICULT.
DIFFICULT. YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN LONG.
LONG. YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN DIFFICULT.
YOU HAVE FACED MANY DANGERS. SURVIVED GREAT PERILS.
SURVIVED GREAT PERILS. YOU HAVE FACED MANY DANGERS.
YOU HAVE FACED MANY PERILS. SURVIVED GREAT DANGER.
YOU DESERVE TO REST. ENJOY A LONG SLEEP.
ENJOY A LONG SLEEP. YOU DESERVE TO REST.
YOU DESERVE TO SLEEP. ENJOY A LONG REST.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SLEEP IN MY BED, DIRK?
YOU WANT TO SLEEP IN MY BED, DIRK.
YOU WANT TO SLEEP IN MY BED, DIRK.
I WOULD LIKE TO SLEEP IN YOUR BED.
BEFORE WE GET INTO BED, WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME, MY BRAVE AND BOLD KNIGHT?
OF COURSE. ANYTHING.

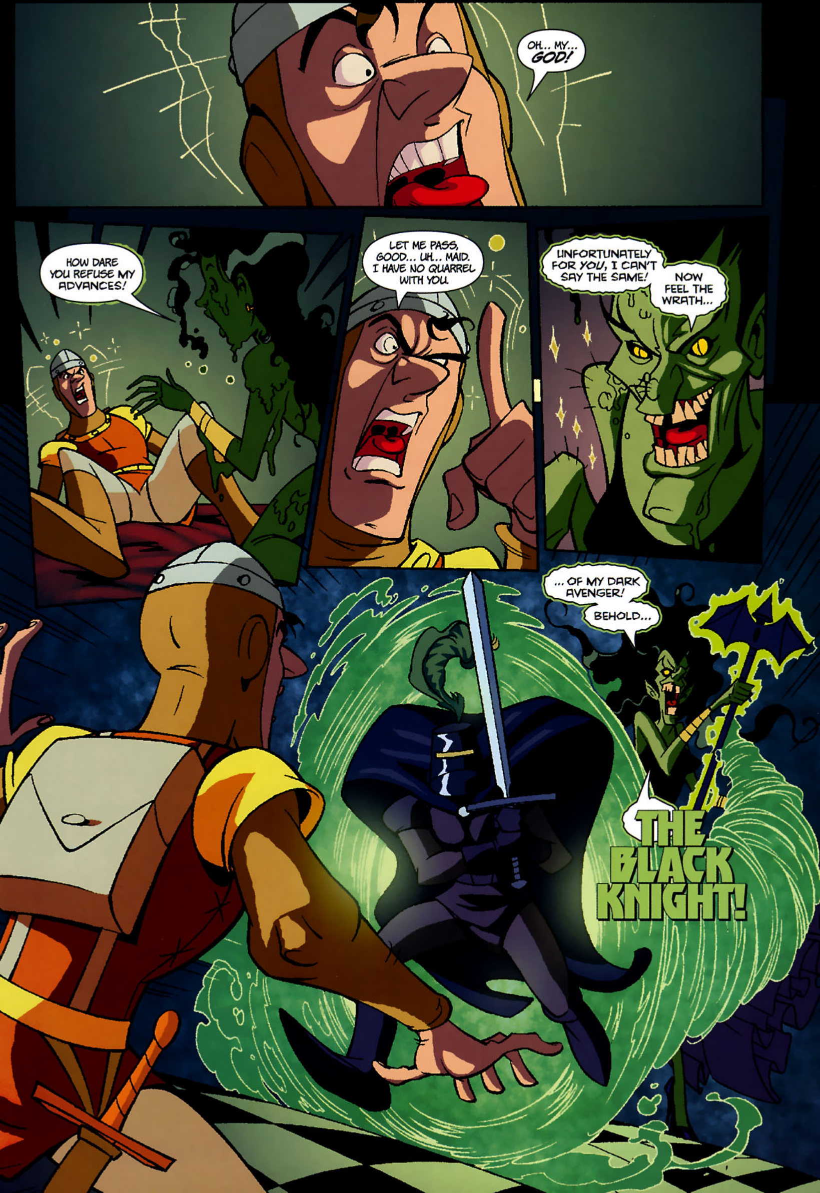

KISS ME.
KISS ME.
KISS ME.
KISS ME.
KISS ME.
KISS ME.

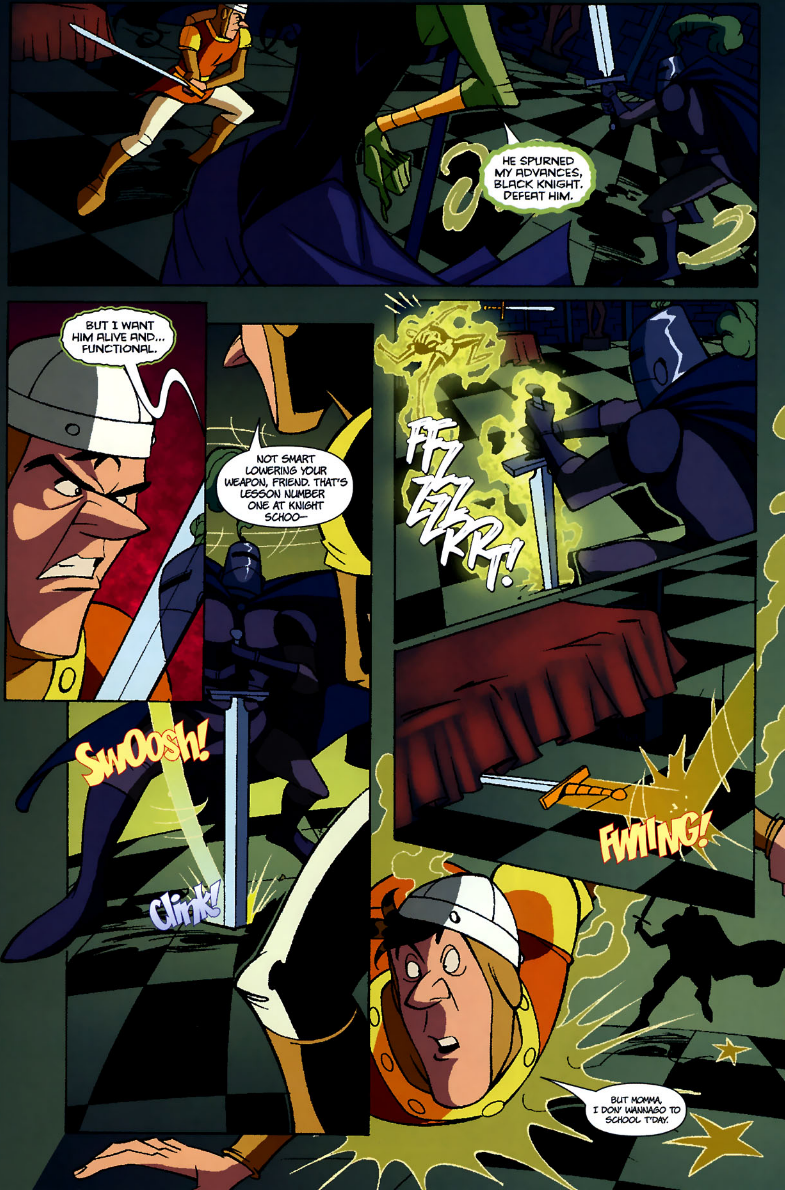

Meanwhile...
WHY PRINCESS DAPHNE, YOU'VE BEEN QUIET FOR SOME TWENTY MINUTES. THAT'S A NEW RECORD, CONSIDERING YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED COMPLAINING SINCE YOU GOT HERE!
NO MORE WITTY REMARKS IN THAT PRETTY LITTLE HEAD OF YOURS?
WHY?

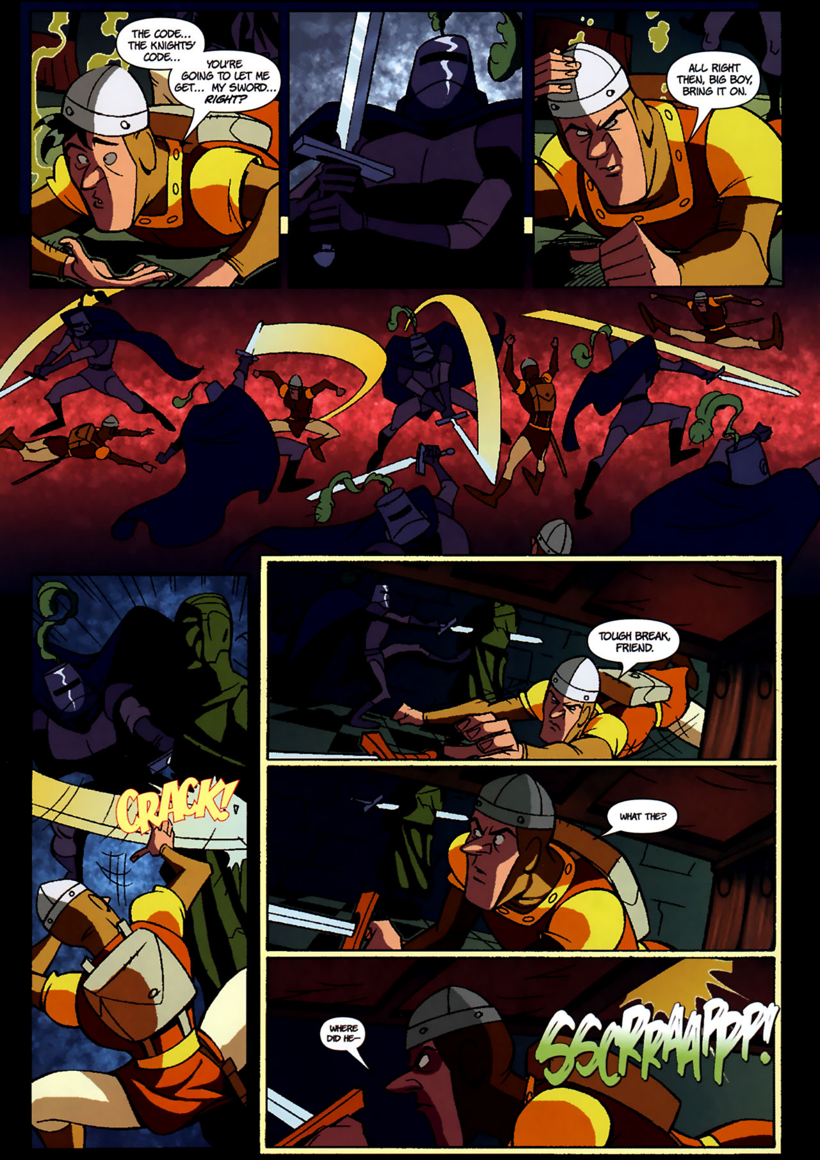

WHAT WAS THAT?
WHY? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY ARE YOU SO... EVIL?
EVIL? *EVIL?!?!*
YOU STUPID HUMAN! YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE REST.
ALWAYS THINKING IT'S *ALL* ABOUT YOU. WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRECIOUS *DIRK!*
HE'S KILLED DOZENS OF MY FAMILY.
I KILLED HIM FOR REVENGE, YOU DOLT!
YOU WERE JUST... A FRINGE BENEFIT.

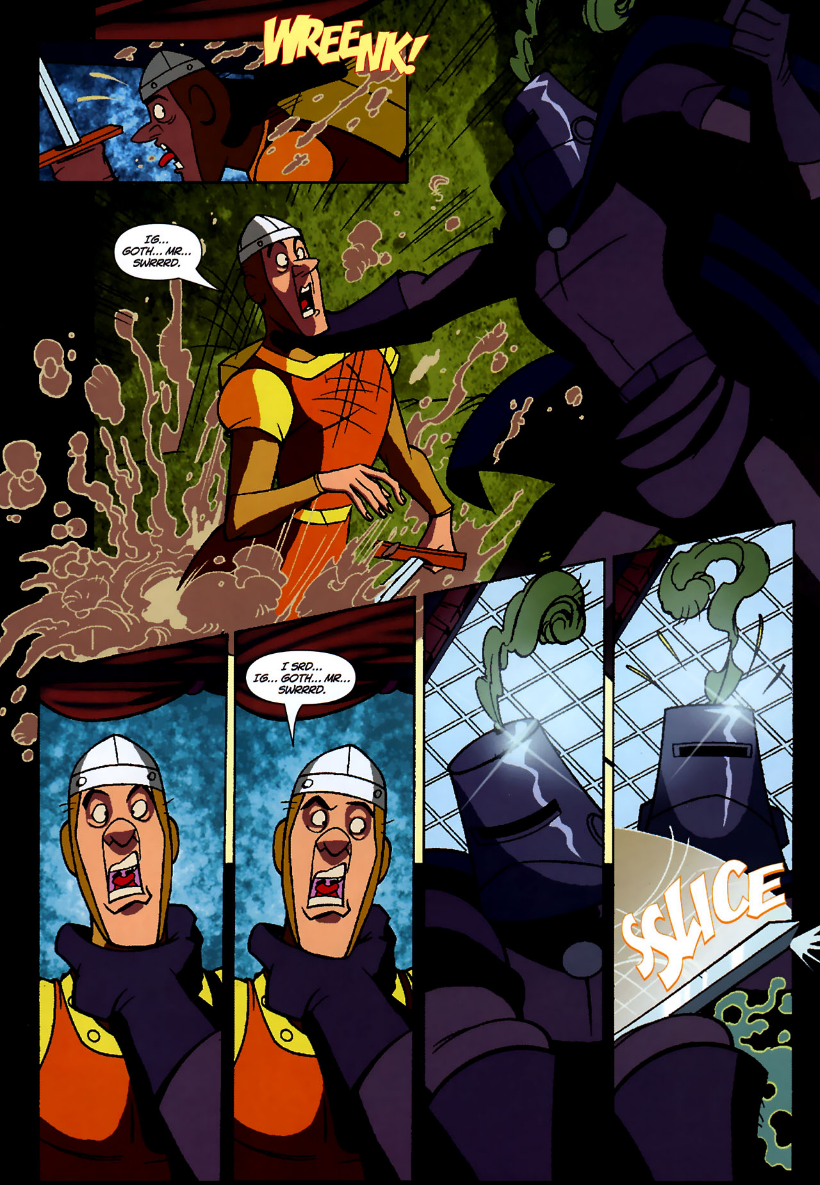

REVENGE?
YES.
SO IF IT'S JUST FOR REVENGE, THEN WHY ARE ENJOYING IT SO MUCH?
BURINNGG!
BECAUSE, REVENGE OR NOT, *I AM EVIL.*
AND I FIND IT FITTING THAT DIRK'S TRUE LOVE WILL SPEND THE REST OF HER DAYS CLEANING MY TEETH AND POLISHING MY SCALES. CALL IT... POETIC JUSTICE.
YOU STOOPID LIZARD THINGIE!
SAVE ME! DIRK! *SAVE ME!*
THE MAGIC'S WORK IS ALMOST DONE. IT WON'T BE LONG NOW...

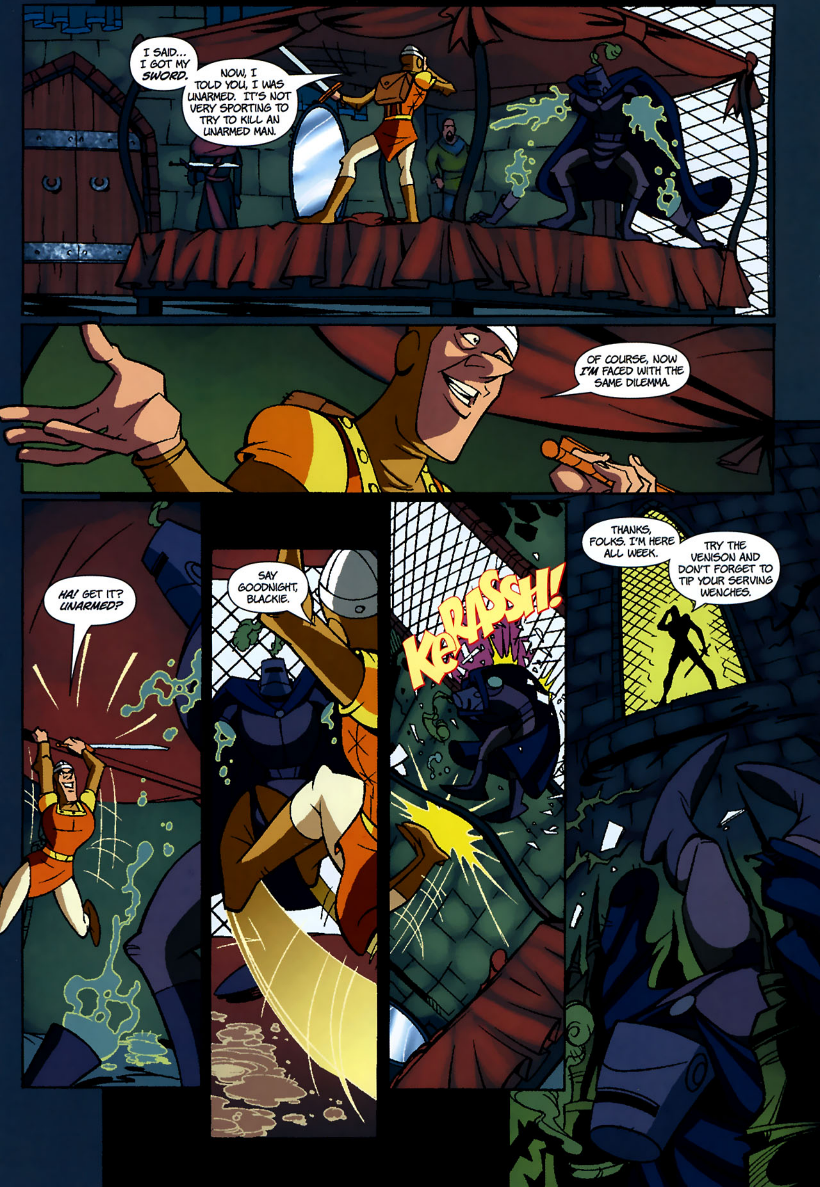

NOT LONG AT ALL...
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA!
HAHAHAHA!

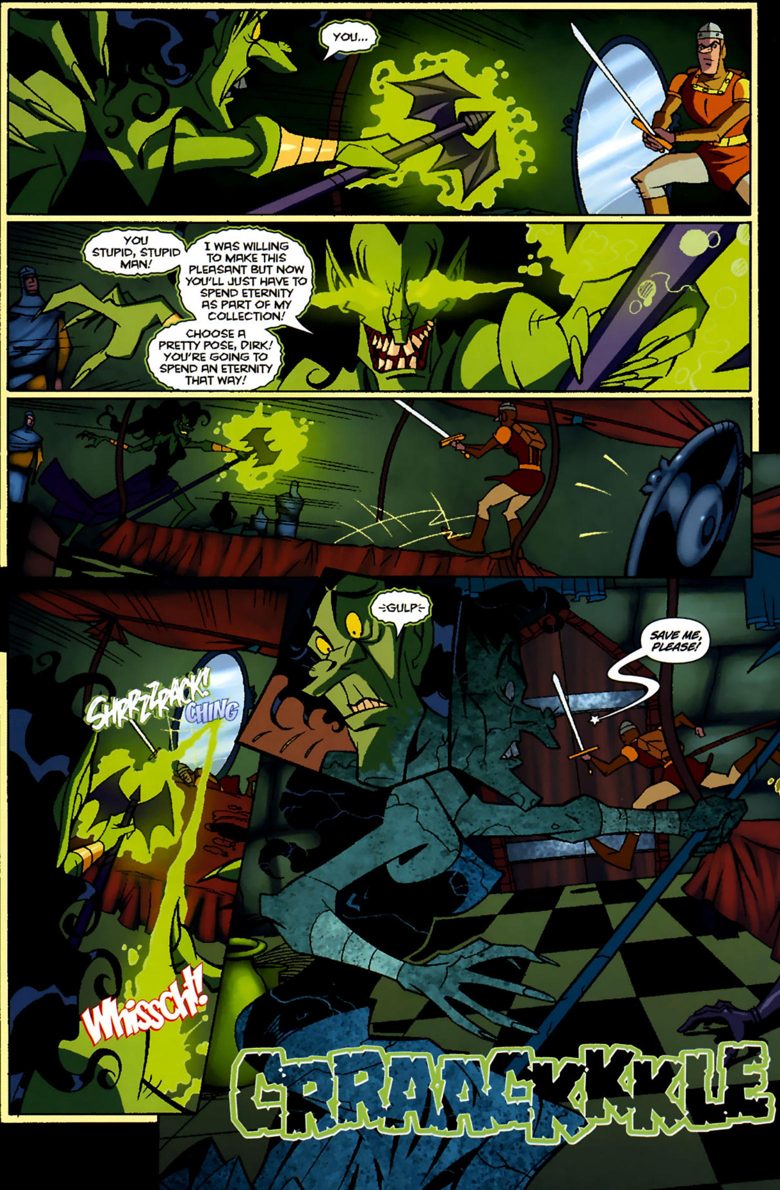

OH... MY... GOD!
HOW DARE YOU REFUSE MY ADVANCES!
LET ME PASS, GOOD... UH... MAID. I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I CAN'T SAY THE SAME!
NOW FEEL THE WRATH...
...OF MY DARK AVENGER!
BEHOLD...
THE BLACK KNIGHT!

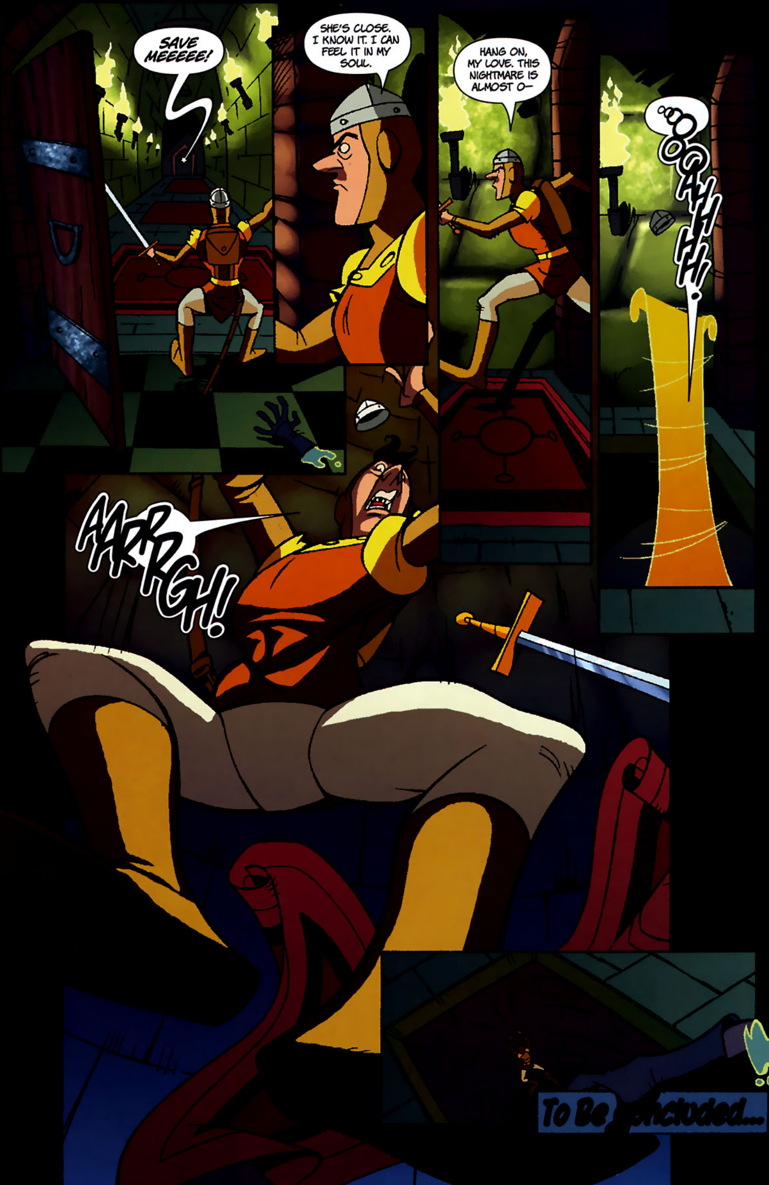

HE SPURNED MY ADVANCES, BLACK KNIGHT. DEFEAT HIM.
BUT I WANT HIM ALIVE AND... FUNCTIONAL.
NOT SMART LOWERING YOUR WEAPON, FRIEND. THAT'S LESSON NUMBER ONE AT KNIGHT SCHOO—
SWOOSH!
CLINK!
FFZZZZRRT!
FWIING!
BUT MOMMA, I DON' WANNAGO TO SCHOOL T'DAY.


THE CODE... THE KNIGHTS' CODE...
YOU'RE GOING TO LET ME GET... MY SWORD... RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT THEN, BIG BOY, BRING IT ON.
CRACK!
TOUGH BREAK, FRIEND.
WHAT THE?
WHERE DID HE–
SSCRRAAPPP!


WREENK!
IG... GOTH... MR... SWRRRD.
I SRD... IG... GOTH... MR... SWRRRD.
SSLICE


I SAID... I GOT MY *SWORD.*
NOW, I TOLD YOU, I WAS UNARMED. IT'S NOT VERY SPORTING TO TRY TO KILL AN UNARMED MAN.
OF COURSE, NOW *I'M* FACED WITH THE SAME DILEMMA.
HA! GET IT? *UNARMED?*
SAY GOODNIGHT, BLACKIE.
KeRASSH!
THANKS, FOLKS. I'M HERE ALL WEEK.
TRY THE VENISON AND DON'T FORGET TO TIP YOUR SERVING WENCHES.


YOU...
YOU STUPID, STUPID MAN!
I WAS WILLING TO MAKE THIS PLEASANT BUT NOW YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SPEND ETERNITY AS PART OF MY COLLECTION!
CHOOSE A PRETTY POSE, DIRK! YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND AN ETERNITY THAT WAY!
SHRRZZRACK!
CHING
Whissch!
GULP
SAVE ME, PLEASE!
CRRAACKKKLE


SAVE MEEEEE!
SHE'S CLOSE. I KNOW IT. I CAN FEEL IT IN MY SOUL.
HANG ON, MY LOVE. THIS NIGHTMARE IS ALMOST O—
OOOOOAHHHH!
AARRGH!
To Be Concluded...

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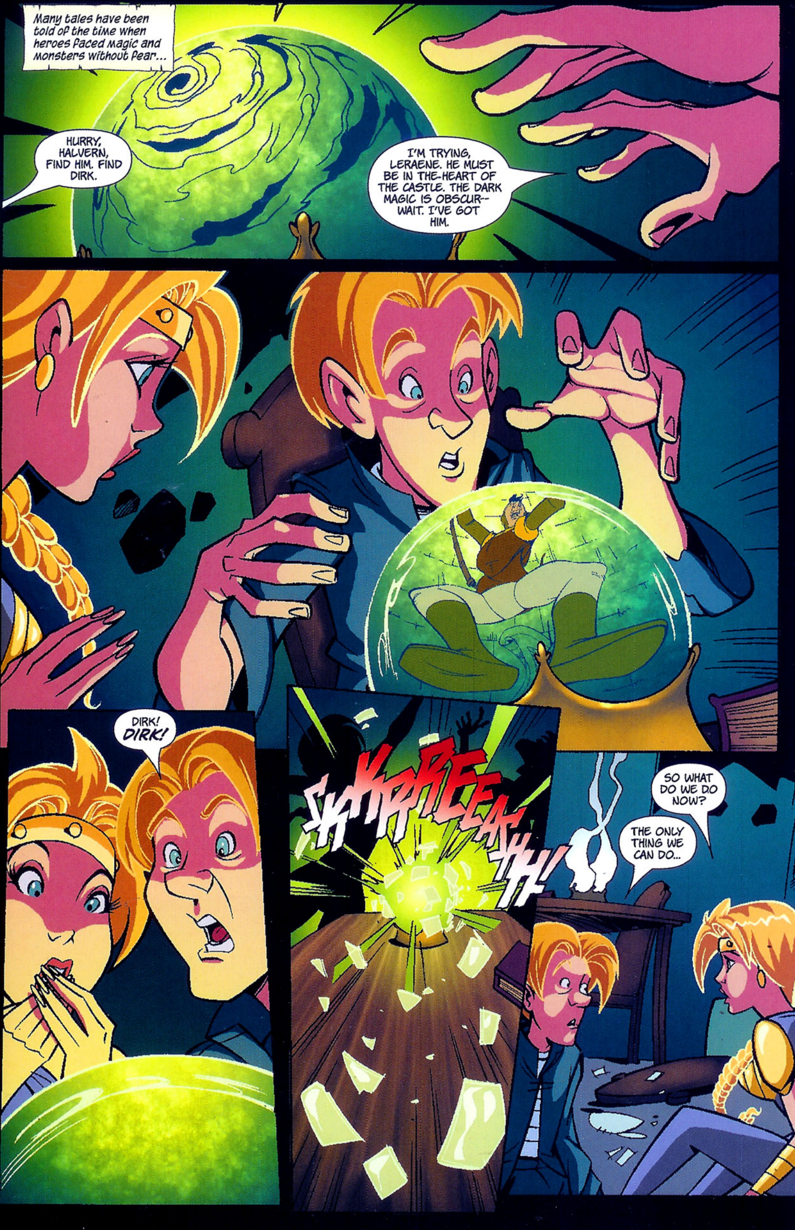
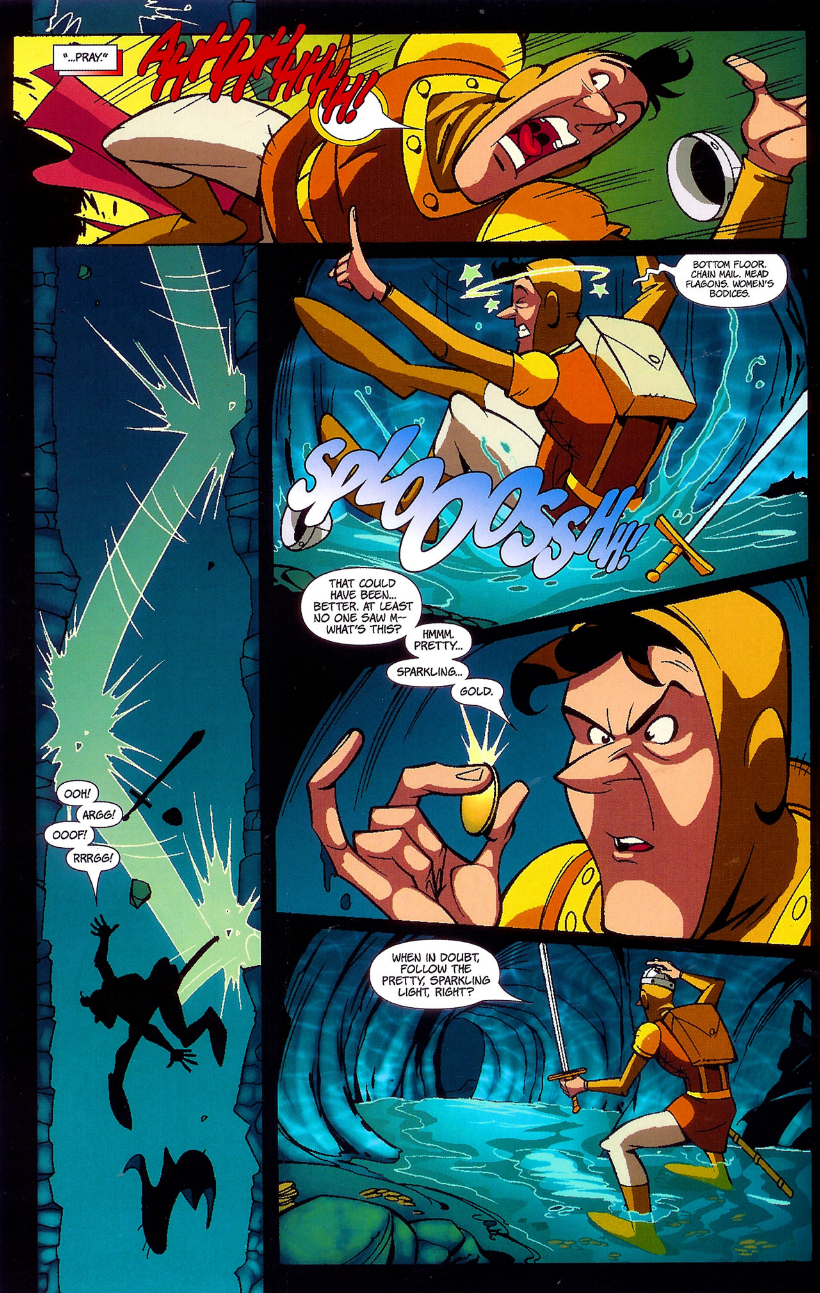
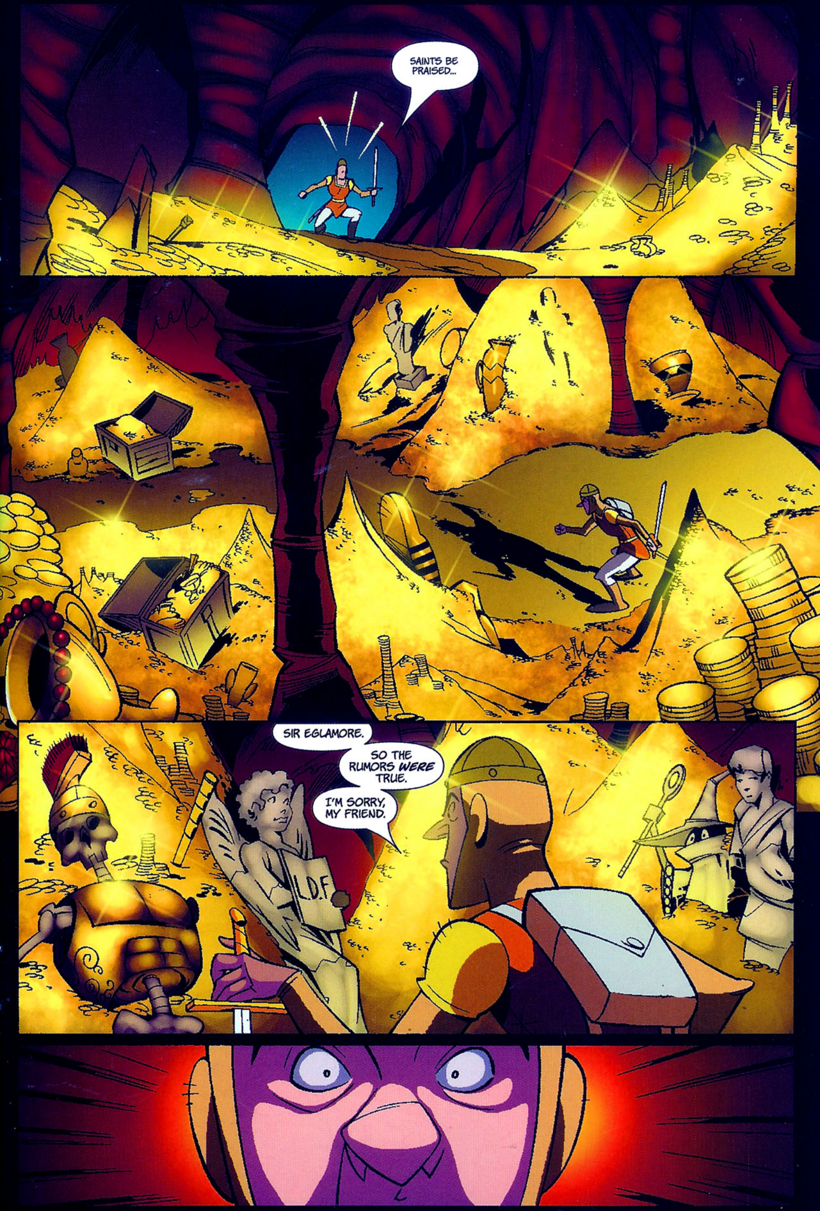
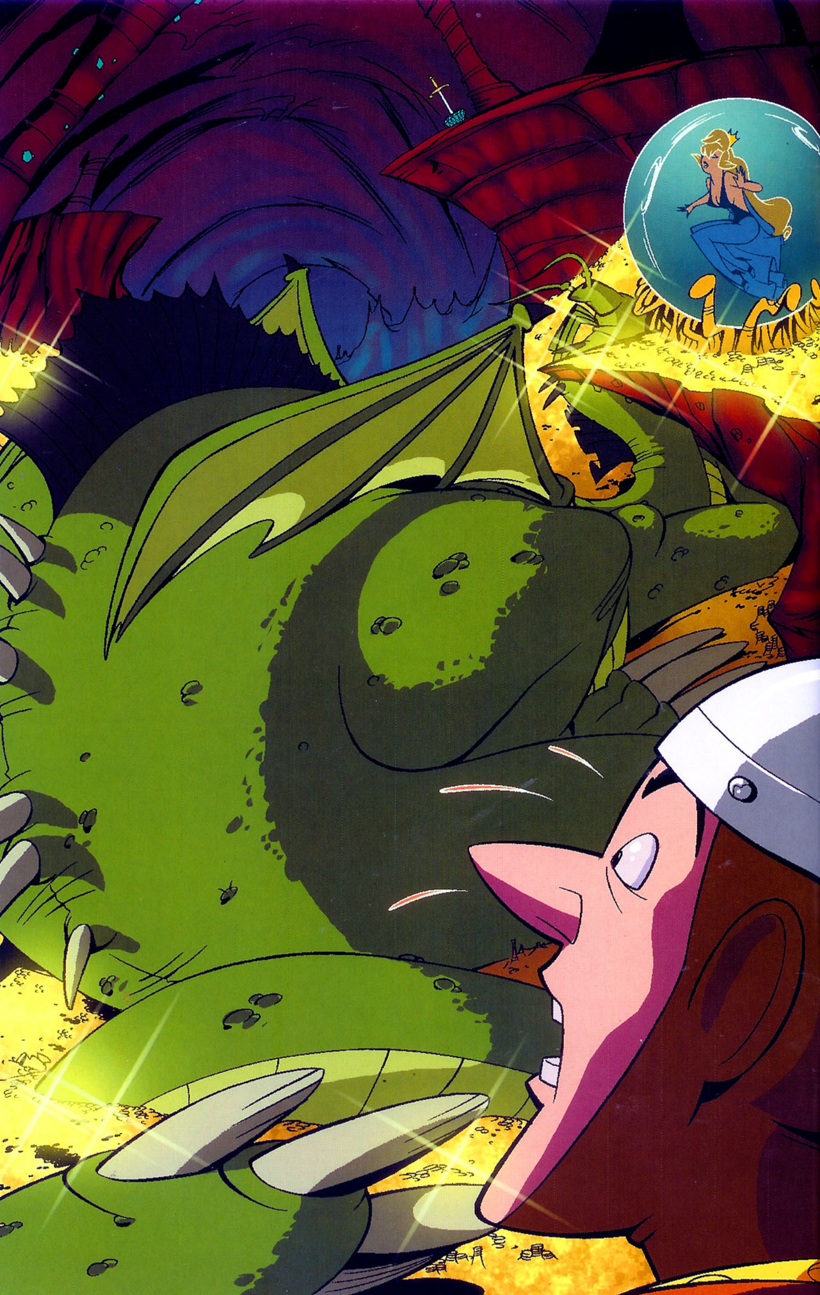
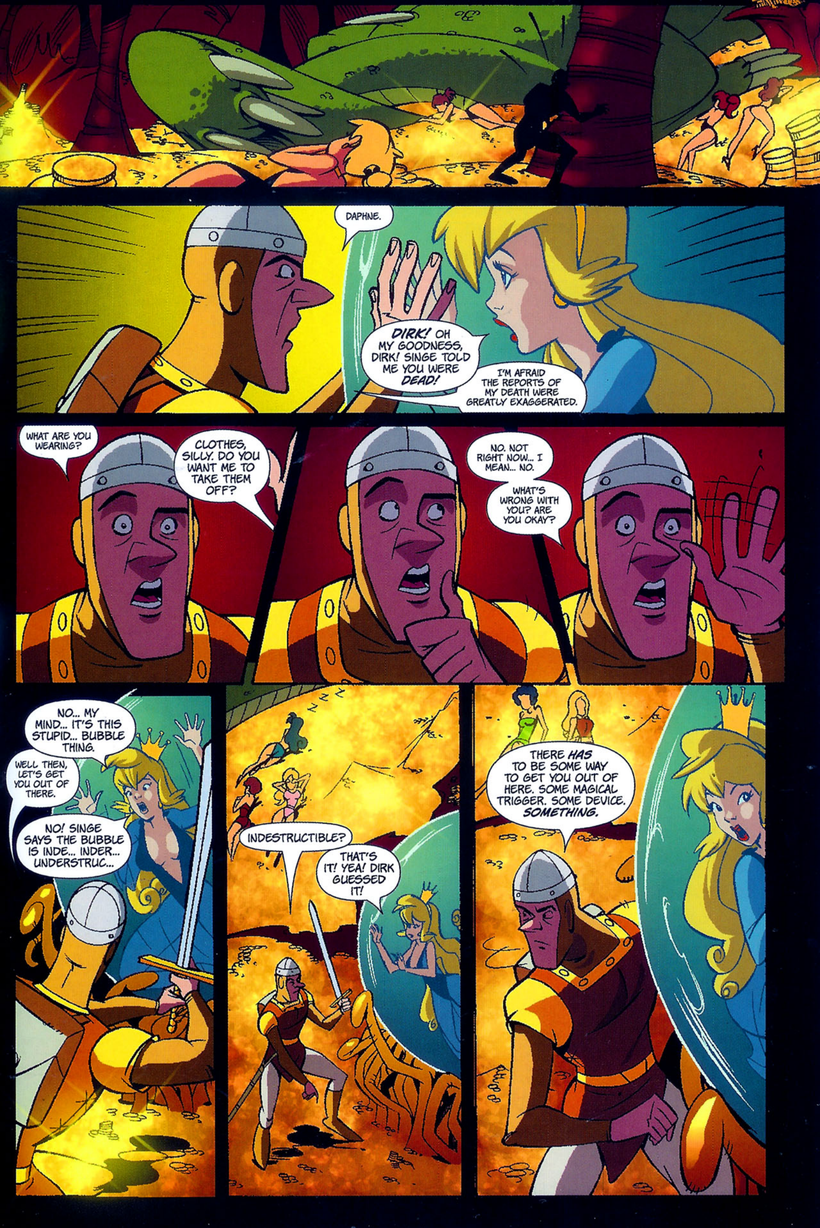
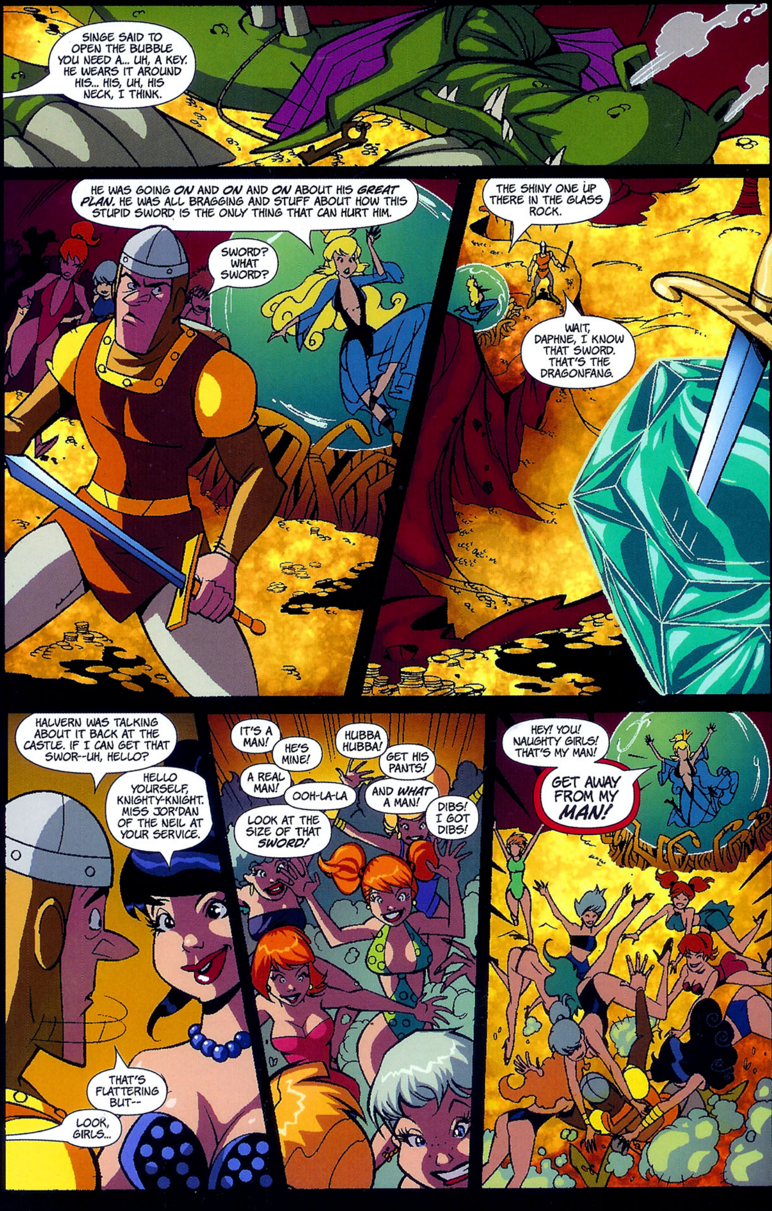

Many tales have been told of the time when heroes faced magic and monsters without fear...
HURRY, HALVERN, FIND HIM. FIND DIRK.
I'M TRYING, LERAENE. HE MUST BE IN THE-HEART OF THE CASTLE. THE DARK MAGIC IS OBSCUR-- WAIT. I'VE GOT HIM.
DIRK! DIRK!
SKKRREEAKKK!
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO...

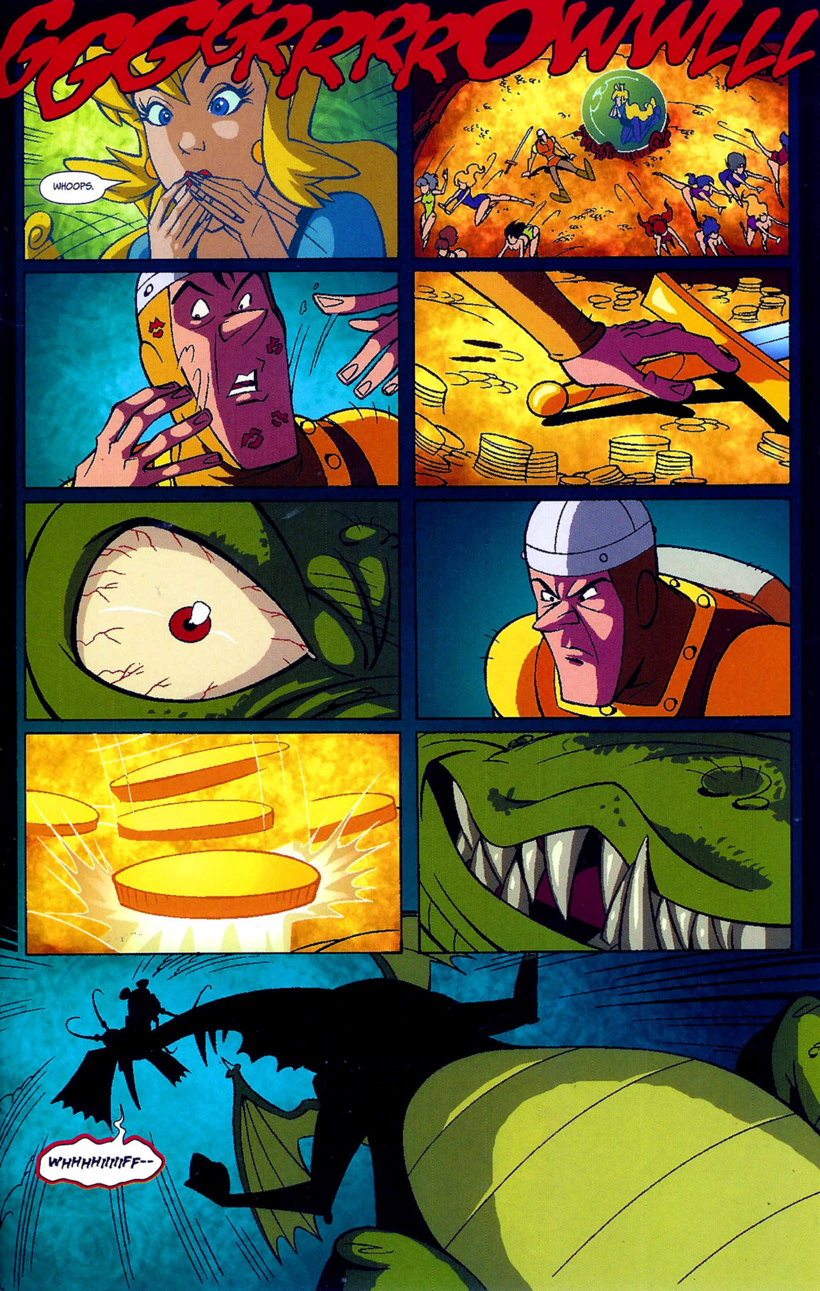

"...PRAY."
AHHHHHHHH!
OOH!
ARGG!
OOOF!
RRRGG!
BOTTOM FLOOR. CHAIN MAIL. MEAD FLAGONS. WOMEN'S BODICES.
SPLOOOSSHH!
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN... BETTER. AT LEAST NO ONE SAW M-- WHAT'S THIS?
HMMM. PRETTY...
SPARKLING...
GOLD.
WHEN IN DOUBT, FOLLOW THE PRETTY, SPARKLING LIGHT, RIGHT?

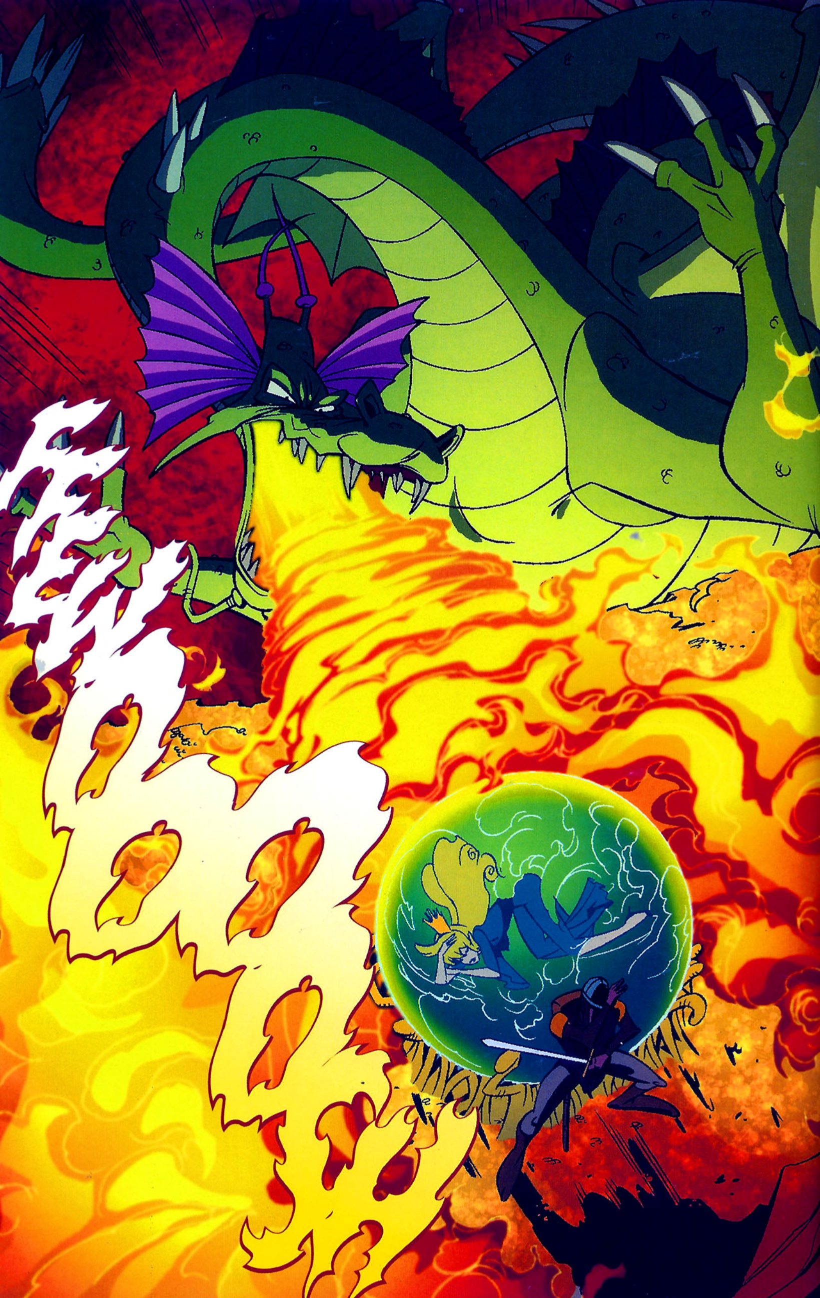

SAINTS BE PRAISED...
SIR EGLAMORE.
SO THE RUMORS *WERE* TRUE.
I'M SORRY, MY FRIEND.
L.D.F

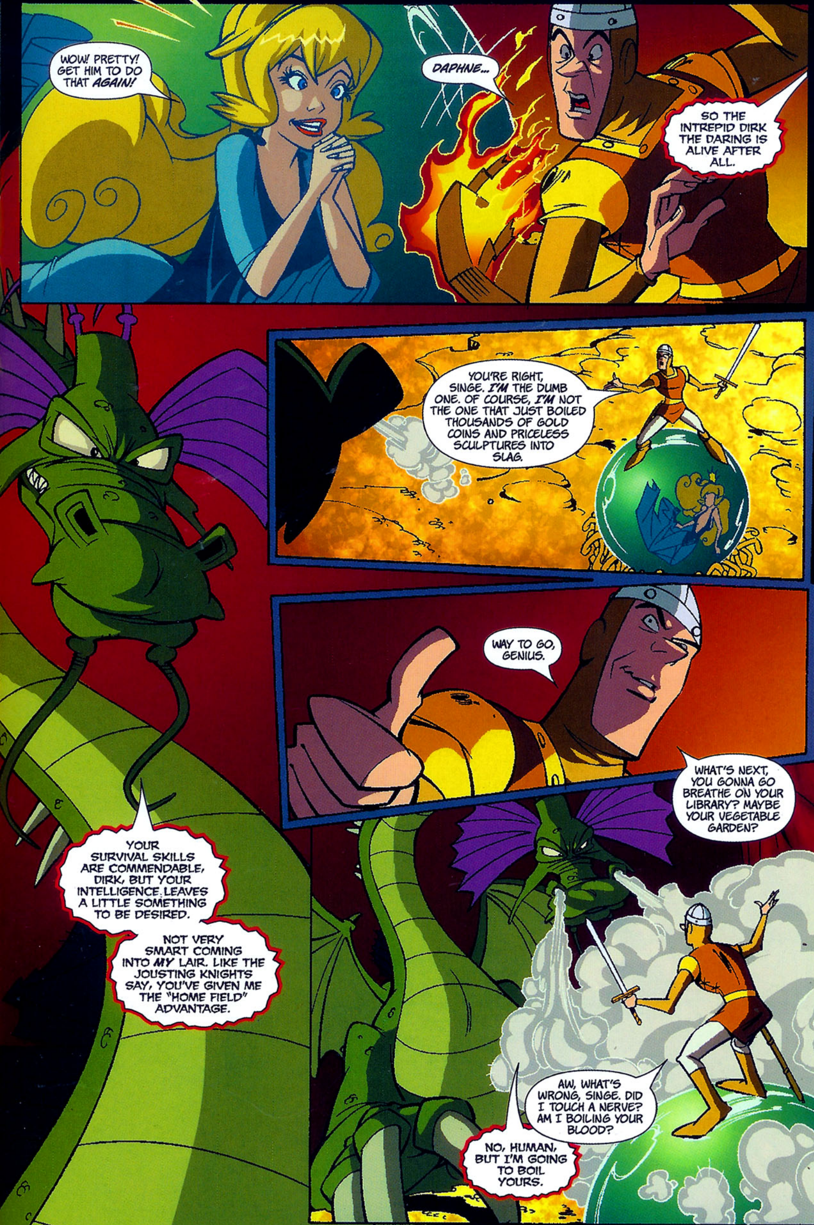


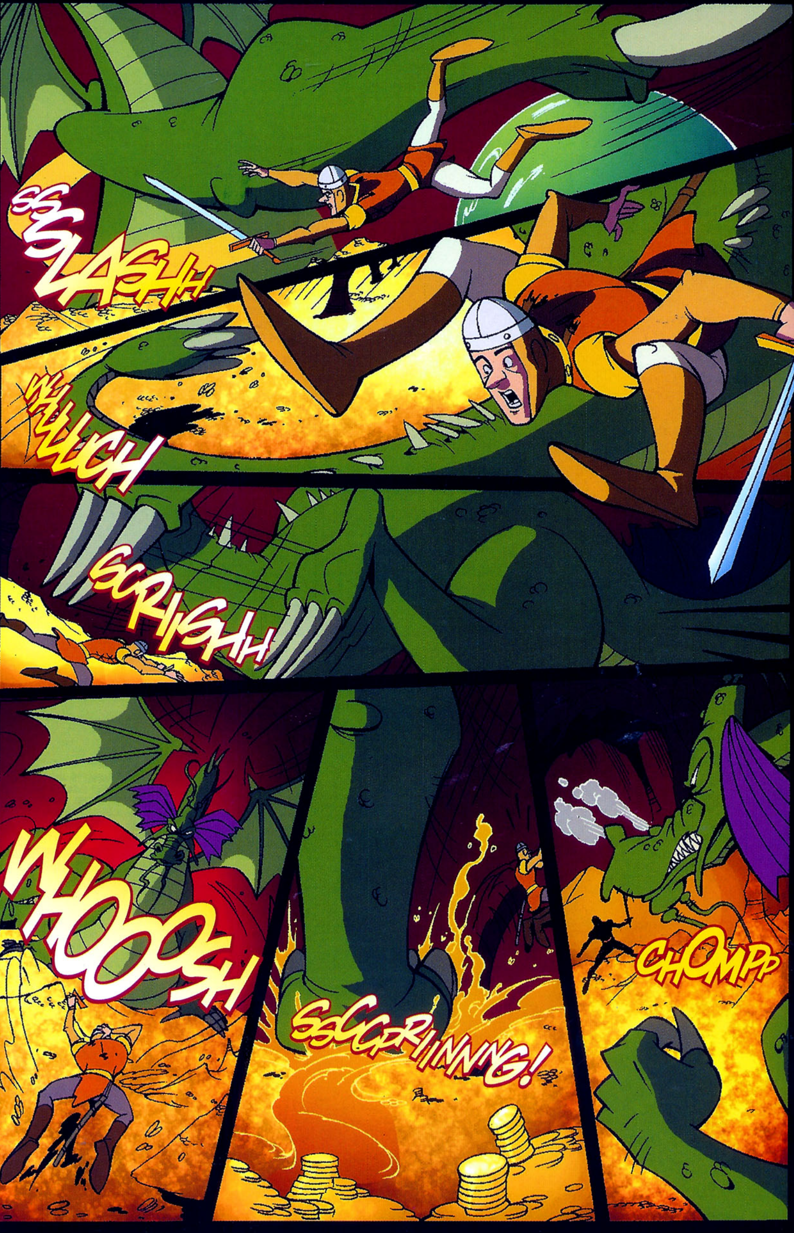

DAPHNE.
DIRK! OH MY GOODNESS, DIRK! SINGE TOLD ME YOU WERE DEAD!
I'M AFRAID THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED.
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
CLOTHES, SILLY. DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THEM OFF?
NO. NOT RIGHT NOW... I MEAN... NO.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?
NO... MY MIND... IT'S THIS STUPID... BUBBLE THING.
WELL THEN, LET'S GET YOU OUT OF THERE.
NO! SINGE SAYS THE BUBBLE IS INDE... INDER... UNDERSTRUC...
INDESTRUCTIBLE?
THAT'S IT! YEA! DIRK GUESSED IT!
THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE. SOME MAGICAL TRIGGER. SOME DEVICE. SOMETHING.

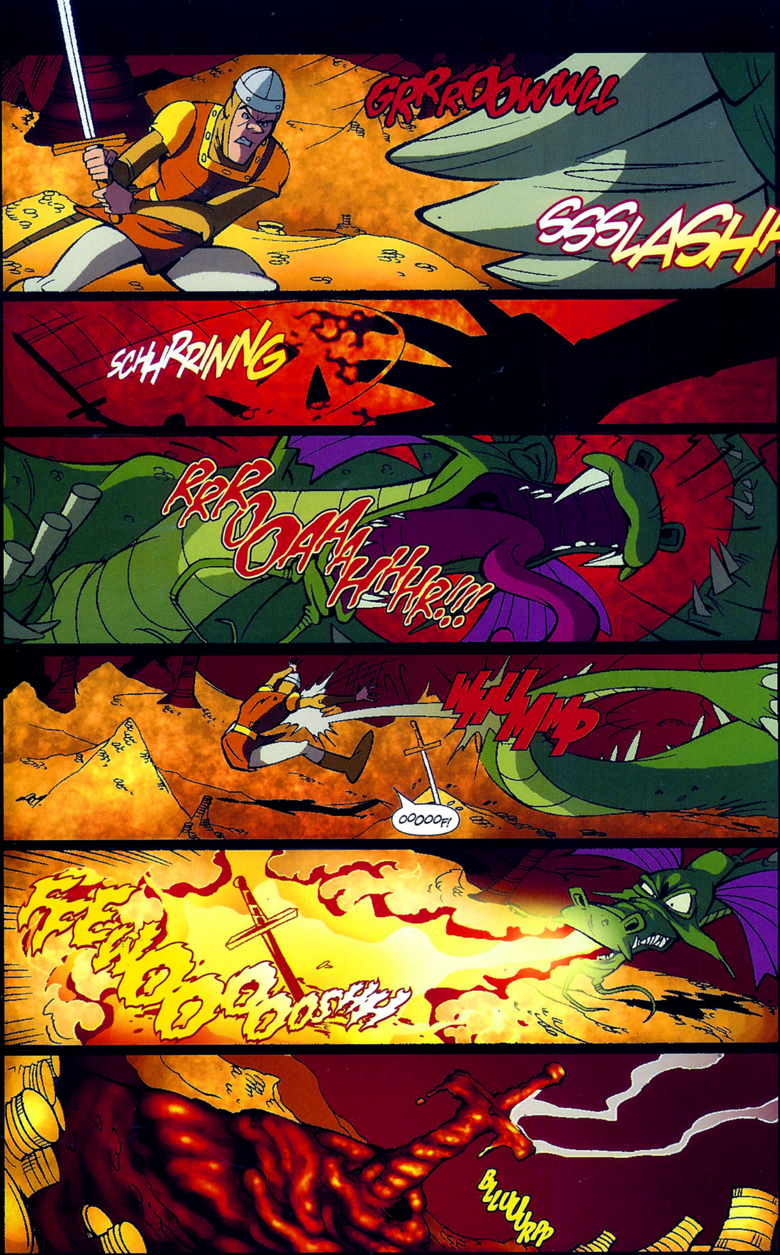

SINGE SAID TO OPEN THE BUBBLE YOU NEED A... UH, A KEY. HE WEARS IT AROUND HIS... HIS, UH, HIS NECK, I THINK.
HE WAS GOING *ON* AND *ON* AND *ON* ABOUT HIS *GREAT PLAN.* HE WAS ALL BRAGGING AND STUFF ABOUT HOW THIS STUPID SWORD IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN HURT HIM.
SWORD? WHAT SWORD?
THE SHINY ONE UP THERE IN THE GLASS ROCK.
WAIT, DAPHNE, I KNOW THAT SWORD. THAT'S THE DRAGONFANG.
HALVERN WAS TALKING ABOUT IT BACK AT THE CASTLE. IF I CAN GET THAT SWOR--UH, HELLO?
HELLO YOURSELF, KNIGHTY-KNIGHT. MISS JOR'DAN OF THE NEIL AT YOUR SERVICE.
THAT'S FLATTERING BUT--
LOOK, GIRLS...
IT'S A MAN!
HE'S MINE!
HUBBA HUBBA!
GET HIS PANTS!
A REAL MAN!
OOH-LA-LA
AND *WHAT* A MAN!
DIBS! I GOT DIBS!
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT *SWORD!*
HEY! YOU! NAUGHTY GIRLS! THAT'S MY MAN!
GET AWAY FROM MY *MAN!*

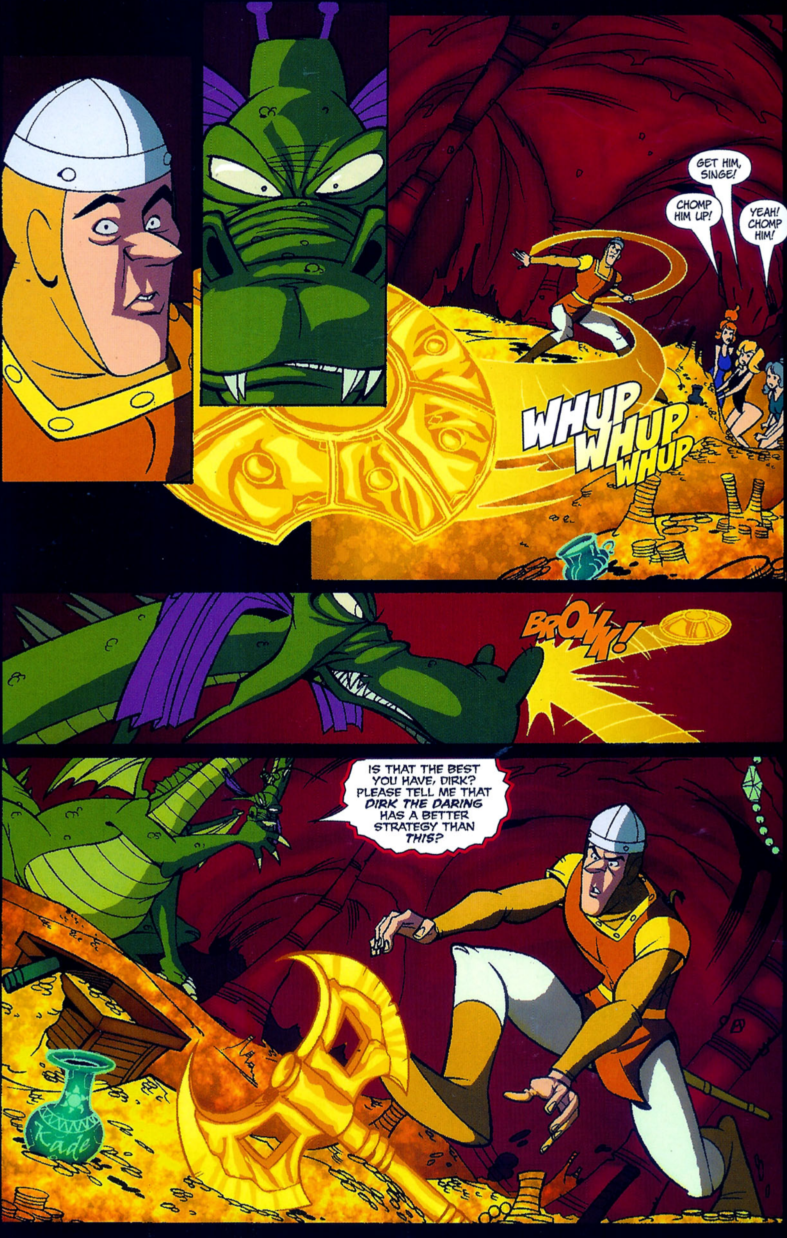

GGGRRRRROWLLL
WHOOPS.
WHHHHIIIIIFF--

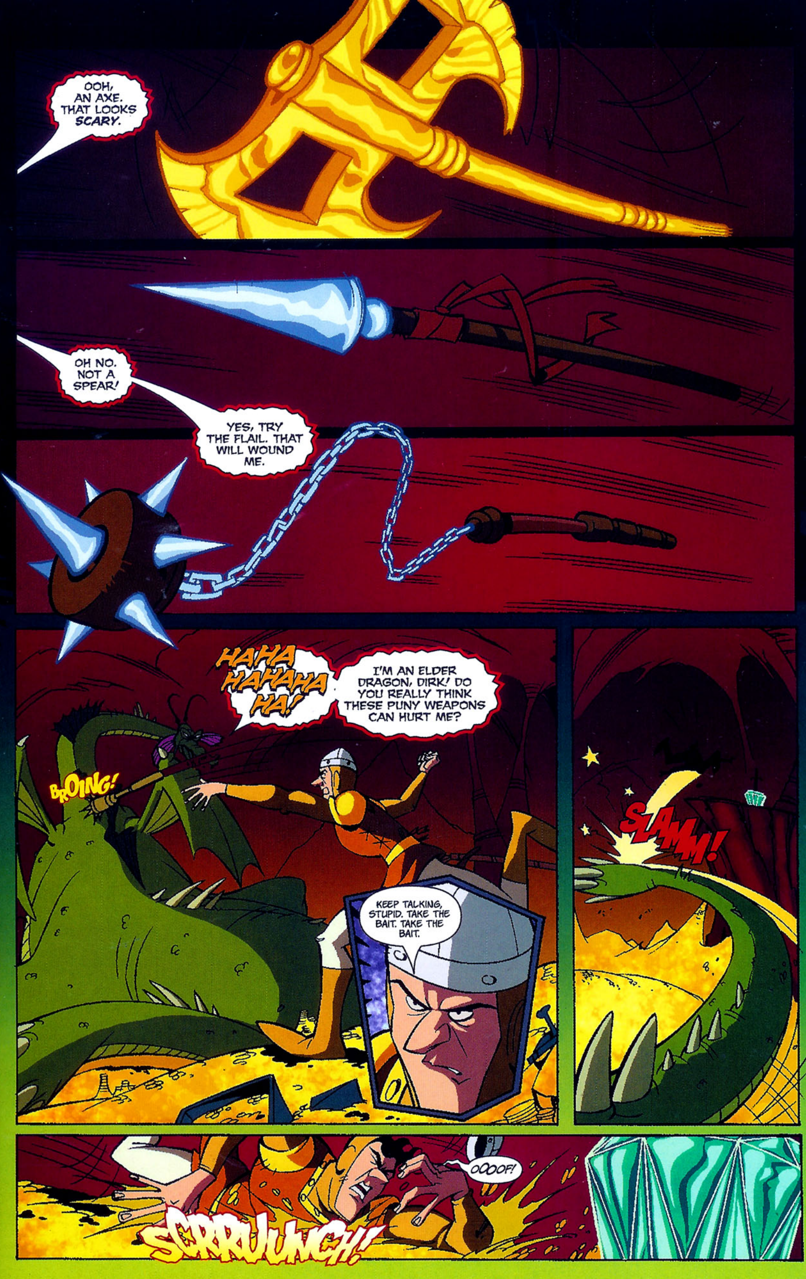

FWOOOM

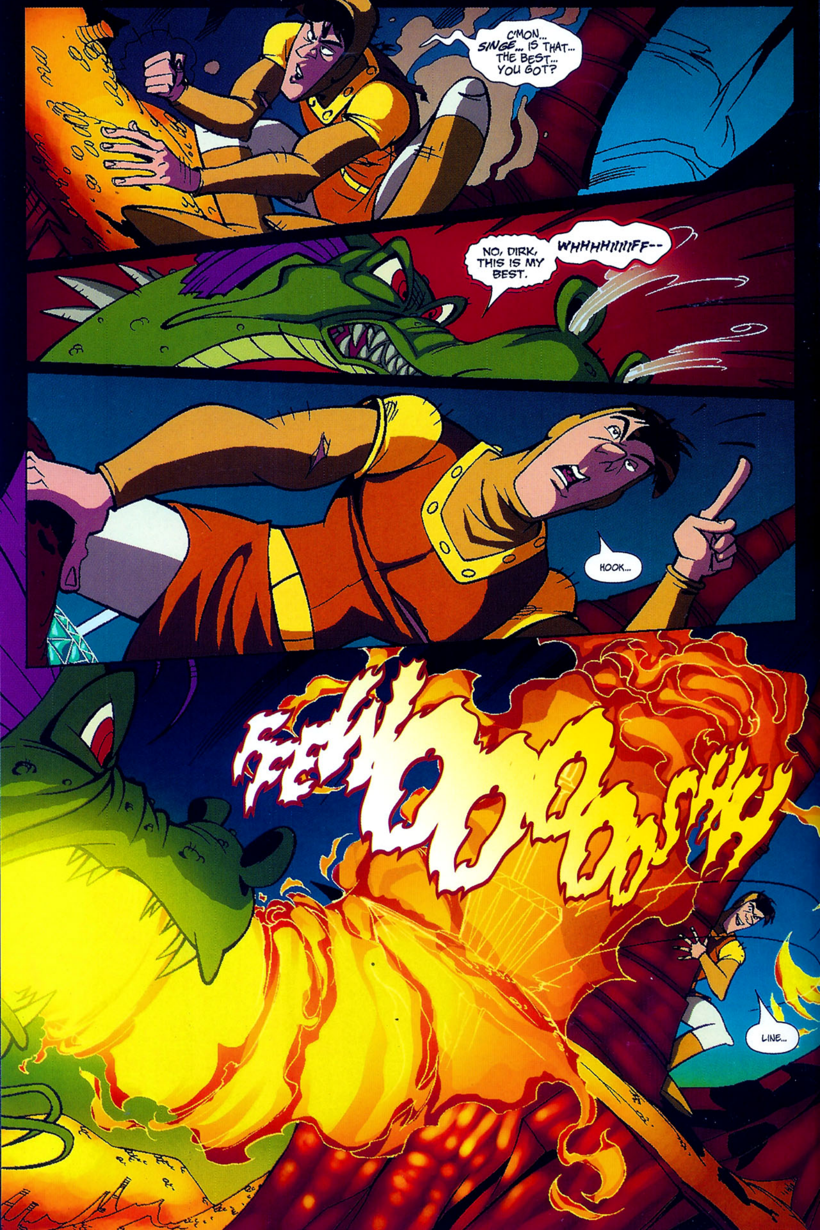

WOW! PRETTY! GET HIM TO DO THAT *AGAIN!*
DAPHNE...
SO THE INTREPID DIRK THE DARING IS ALIVE AFTER ALL.
YOUR SURVIVAL SKILLS ARE COMMENDABLE, DIRK, BUT YOUR INTELLIGENCE LEAVES A LITTLE SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.
NOT VERY SMART COMING INTO *MY* LAIR. LIKE THE JOUSTING KNIGHTS SAY, YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE "HOME FIELD" ADVANTAGE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, SINGE. *I'M* THE DUMB ONE. OF COURSE, *I'M* NOT THE ONE THAT JUST BOILED THOUSANDS OF GOLD COINS AND PRICELESS SCULPTURES INTO SLAG.
WAY TO GO, GENIUS.
WHAT'S NEXT, YOU GONNA GO BREATHE ON YOUR LIBRARY? MAYBE YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN?
AW, WHAT'S WRONG, SINGE. DID I TOUCH A NERVE? AM I BOILING YOUR BLOOD?
NO, HUMAN, BUT I'M GOING TO BOIL YOURS.

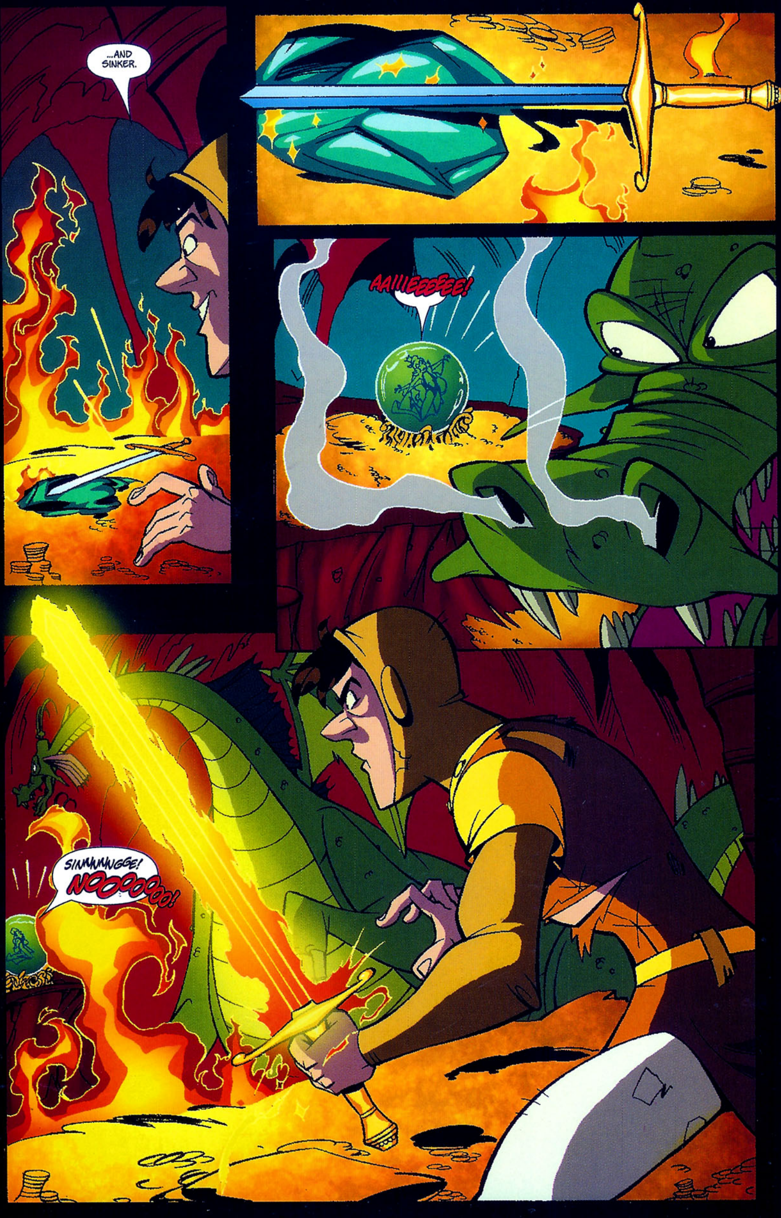

SSSLASHH
WHLUCH
SCRISHH
WHOOOSH
SSCCRIINNNG!
CHOMPP

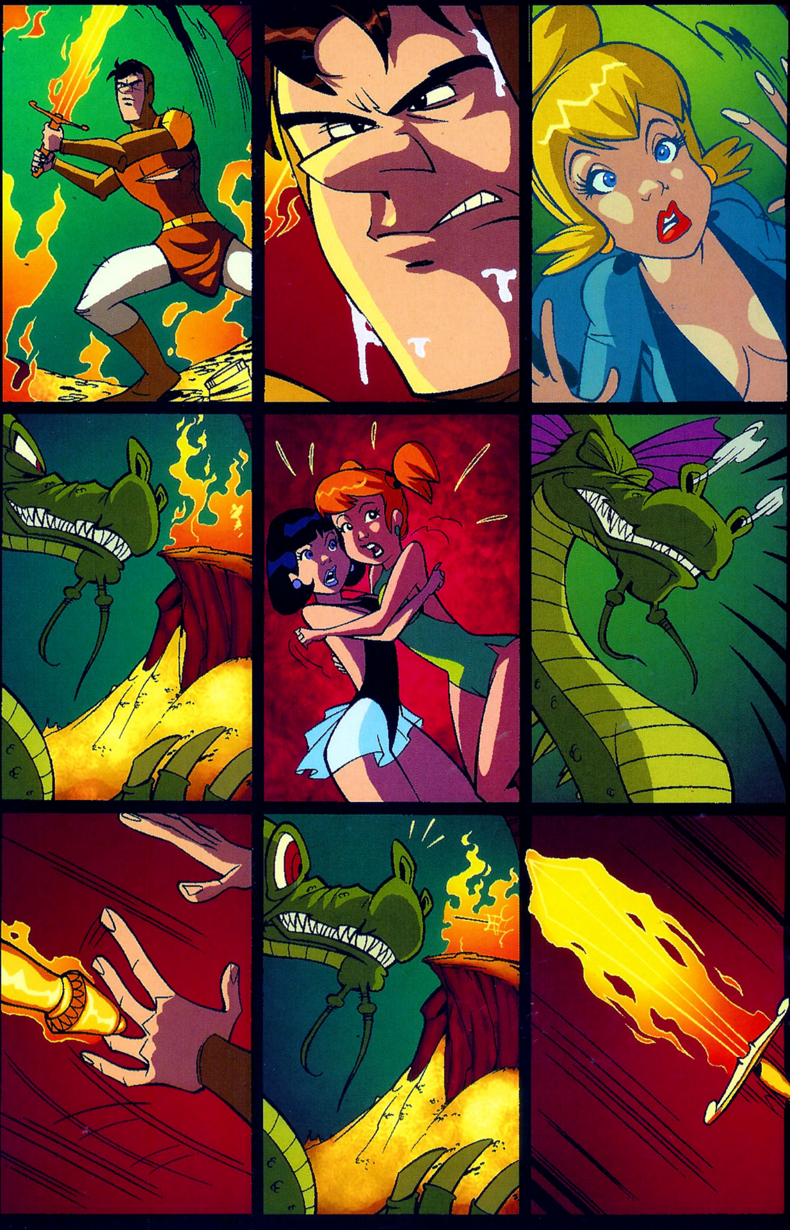

GRRROOWWLL
SSSLASHH
SCHHRRINNG
RRROOAAHHHR!!!
WHUMMP
OOOOOF!
FFFOOOOOOSHH
BLUUURP

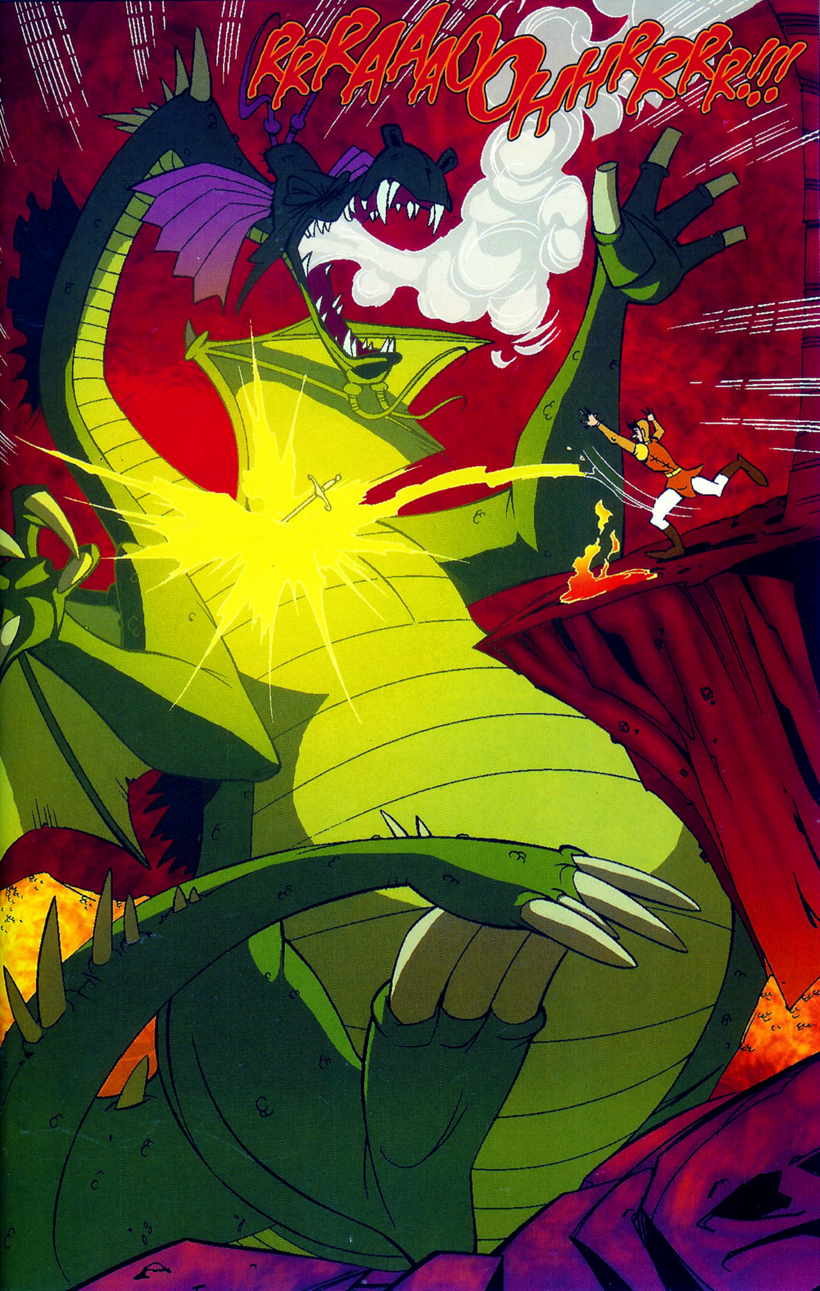

GET HIM, SINGE!
CHOMP HIM UP!
YEAH! CHOMP HIM!
WHUP WHUP WHUP
BRONK!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU HAVE, DIRK? PLEASE TELL ME THAT *DIRK THE DARING* HAS A BETTER STRATEGY THAN *THIS?*
Kade

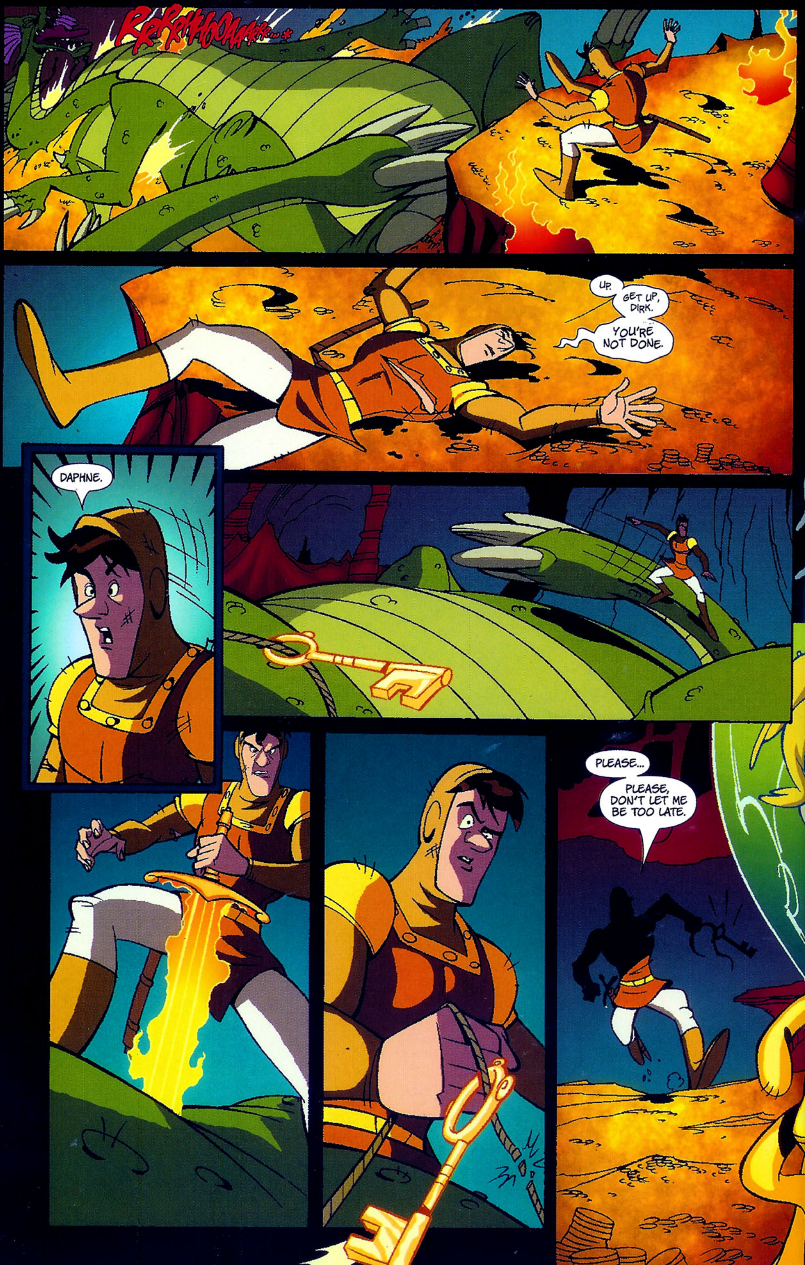

OOH, AN AXE. THAT LOOKS *SCARY*.
OH NO. NOT A SPEAR!
YES, TRY THE FLAIL. THAT WILL WOUND ME.
HAHA HAHAHA HA!
I'M AN ELDER DRAGON, DIRK! DO YOU REALLY THINK THESE PUNY WEAPONS CAN HURT ME?
BROING!
KEEP TALKING, STUPID. TAKE THE BAIT. TAKE THE BAIT.
SLAMM!
OOOOF!
SCRRUUNCH!

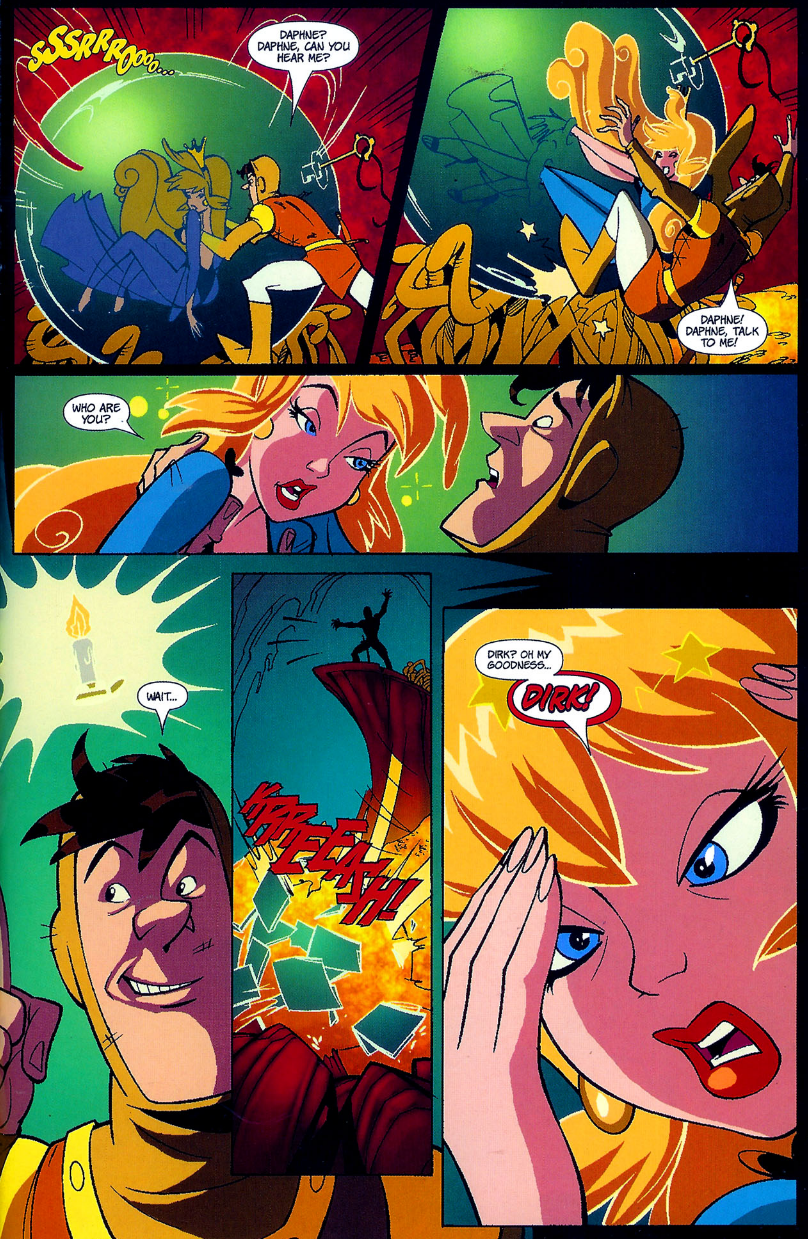

C'MON... SINGE... IS THAT... THE BEST... YOU GOT?
NO, DIRK, THIS IS MY BEST.
WHHHHIIIIIFF--
HOOK...
FSHOOOOSH
LINE...

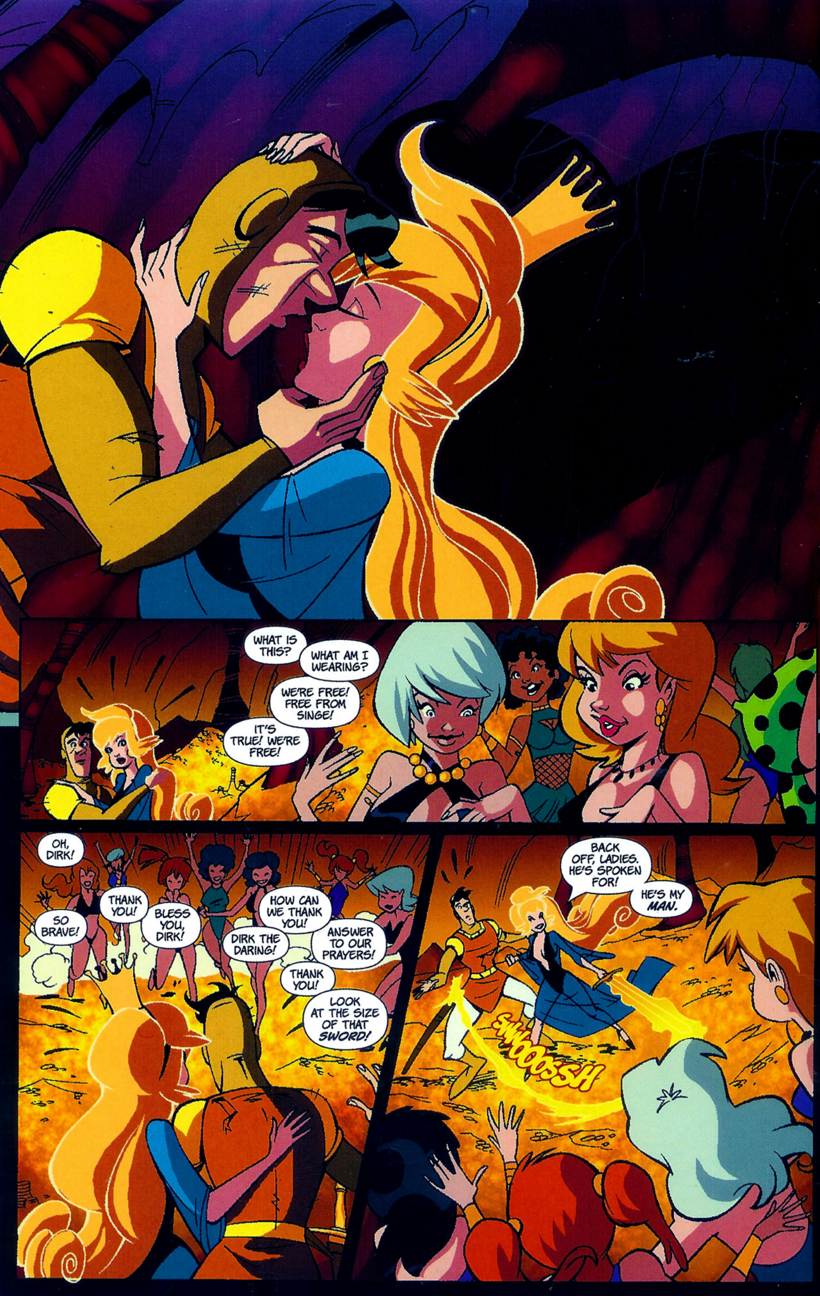

...AND SINKER.
AAIIIEEEEEEE!
SINNNNNGGE! NOOOOOOOO!

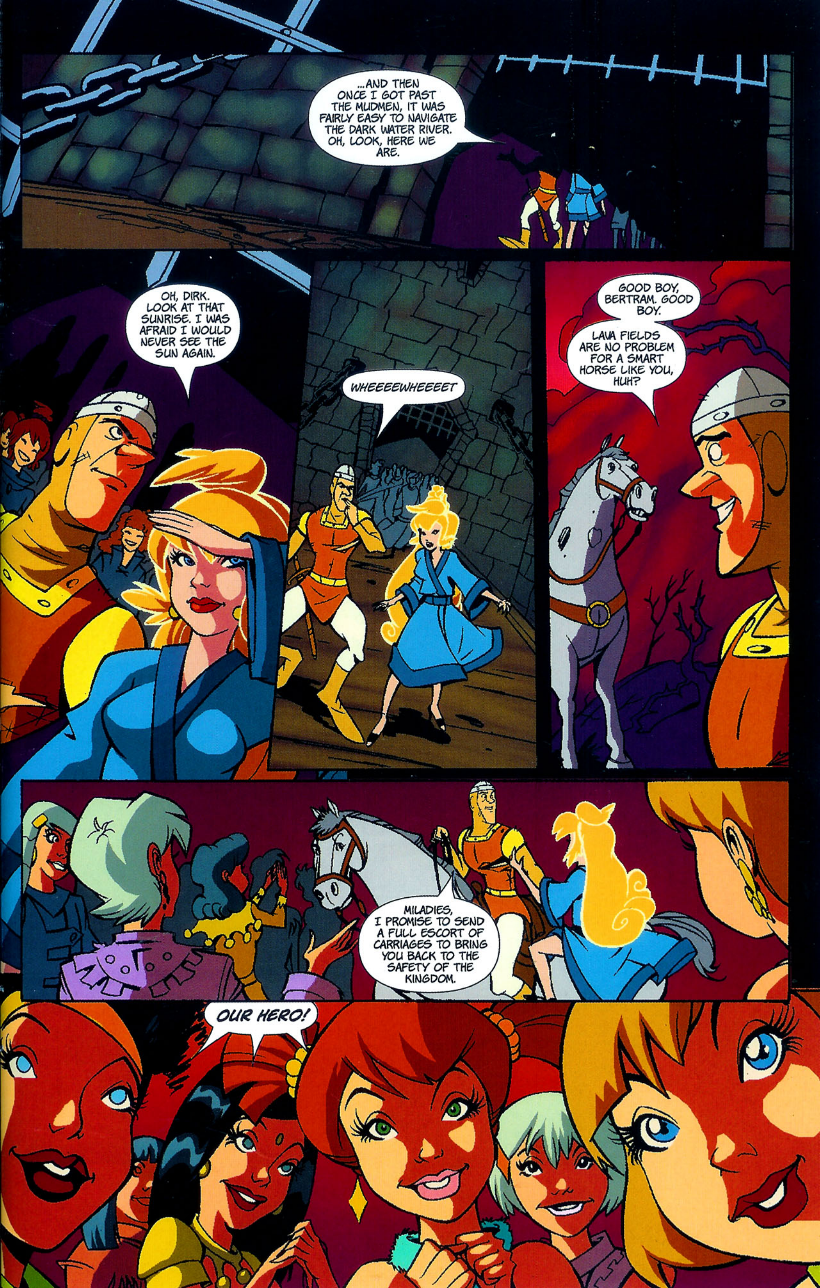


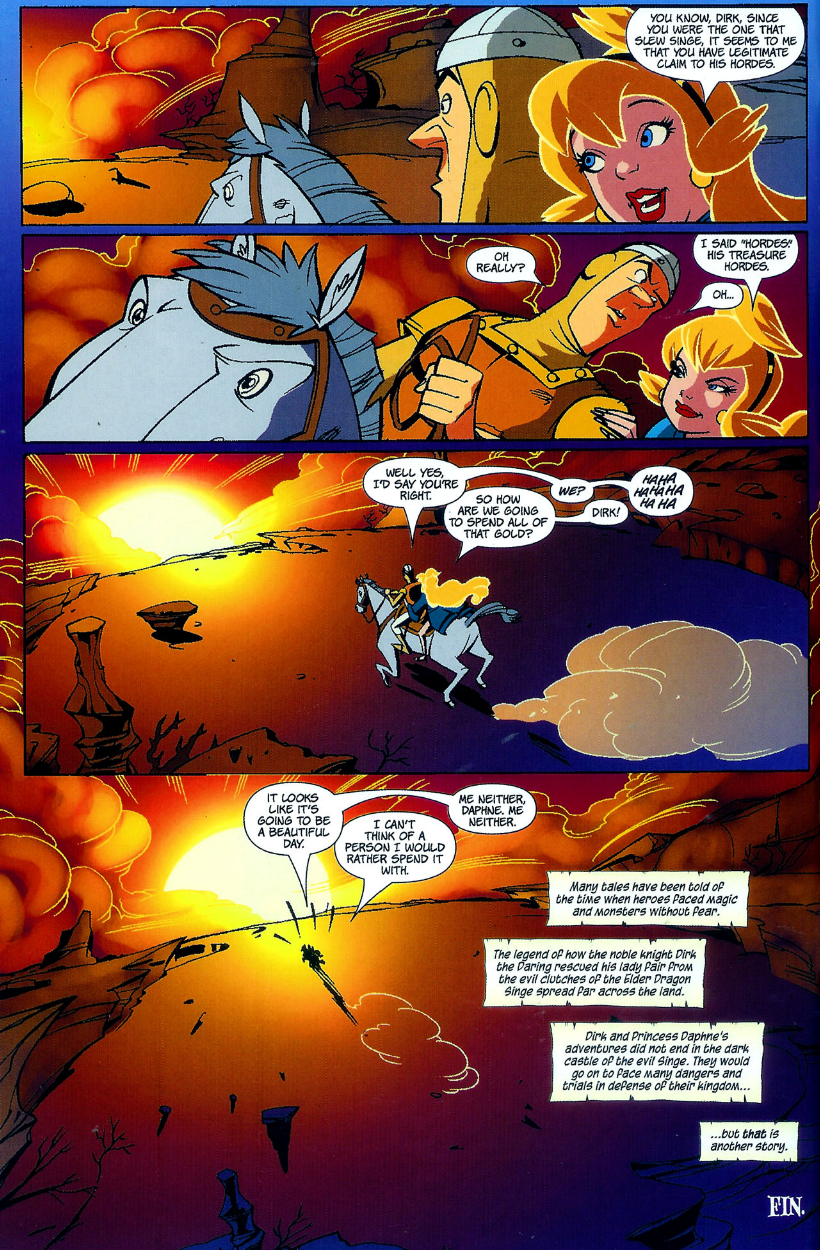

RRRAAAOOHHRRRRR!!!

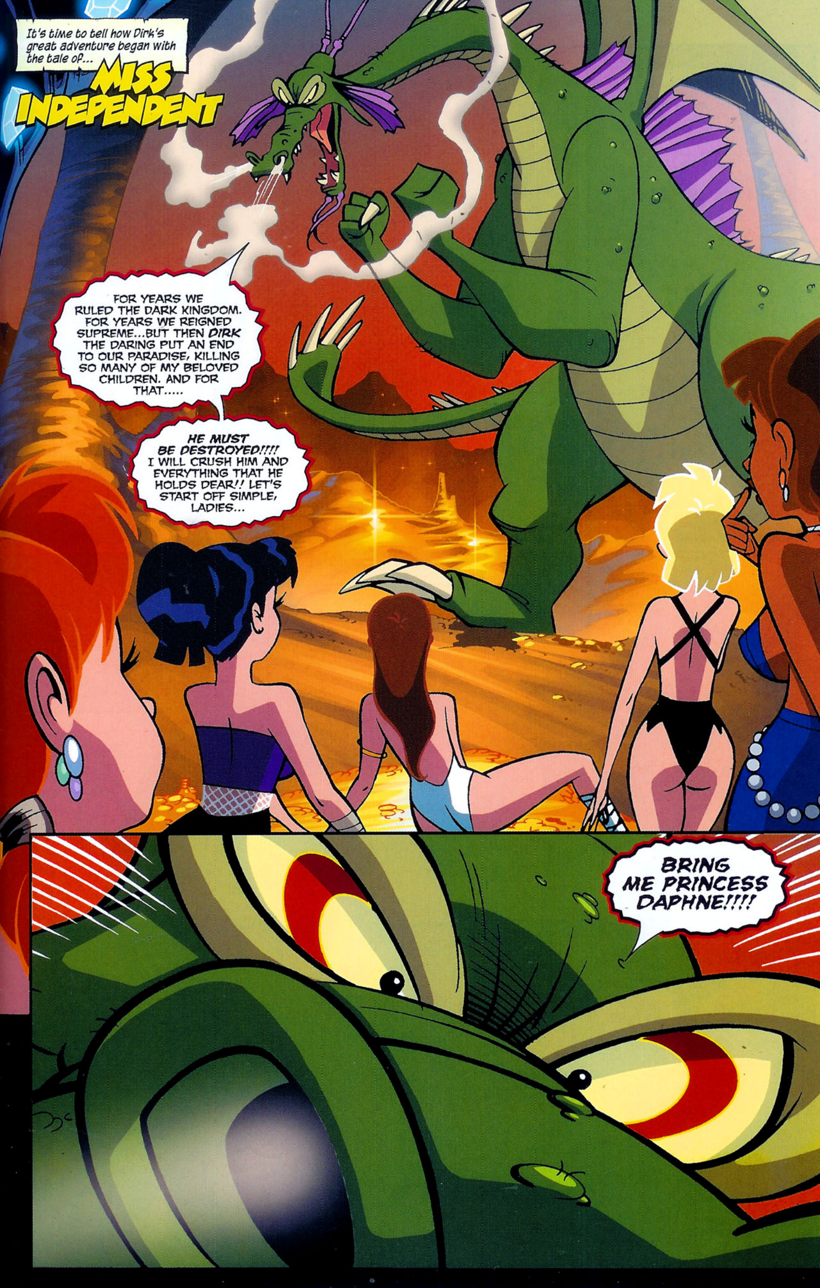

RRRRHHOOAAARRR...*
UP.
GET UP, DIRK.
YOU'RE NOT DONE.
DAPHNE.
PLEASE...
PLEASE, DON'T LET ME BE TOO LATE.

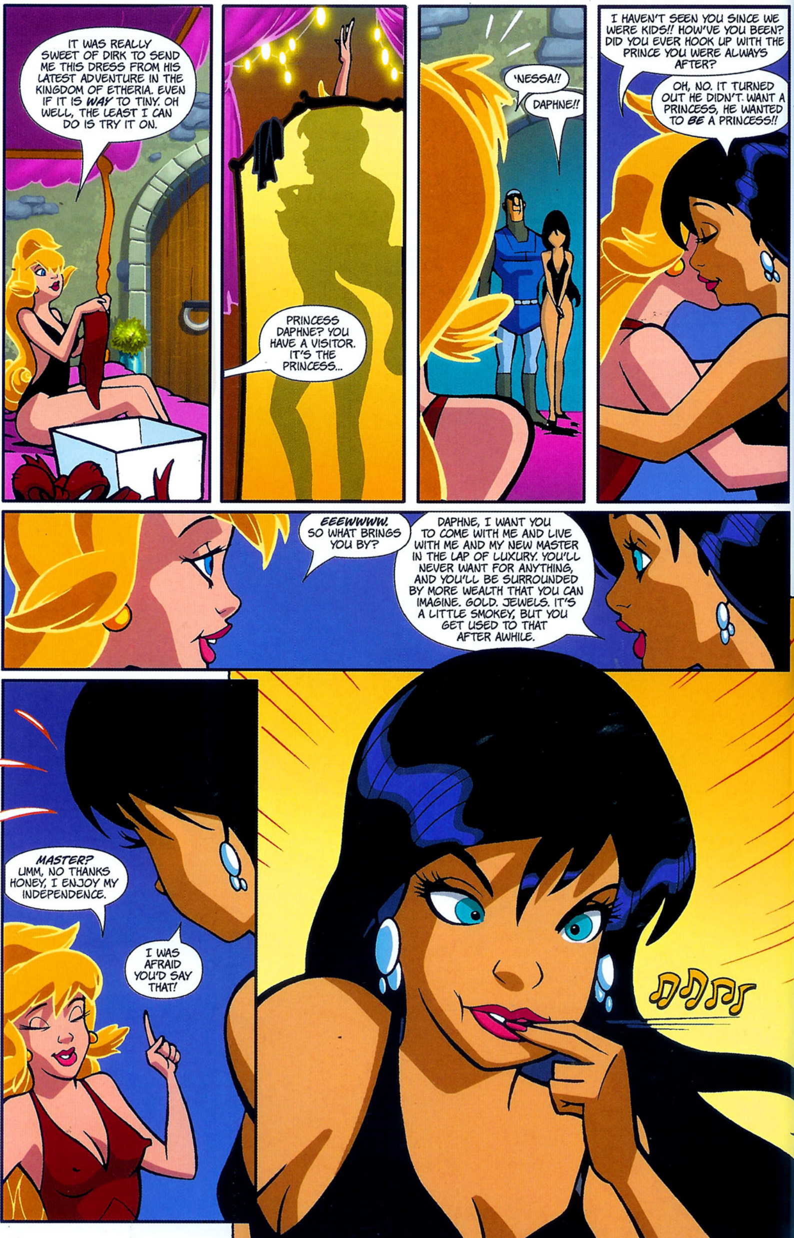

SSSRRROOOO...
DAPHNE? DAPHNE, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
DAPHNE! DAPHNE, TALK TO ME!
WHO ARE YOU?
WAIT...
KRREEASH!
DIRK? OH MY GOODNESS...
DIRK!

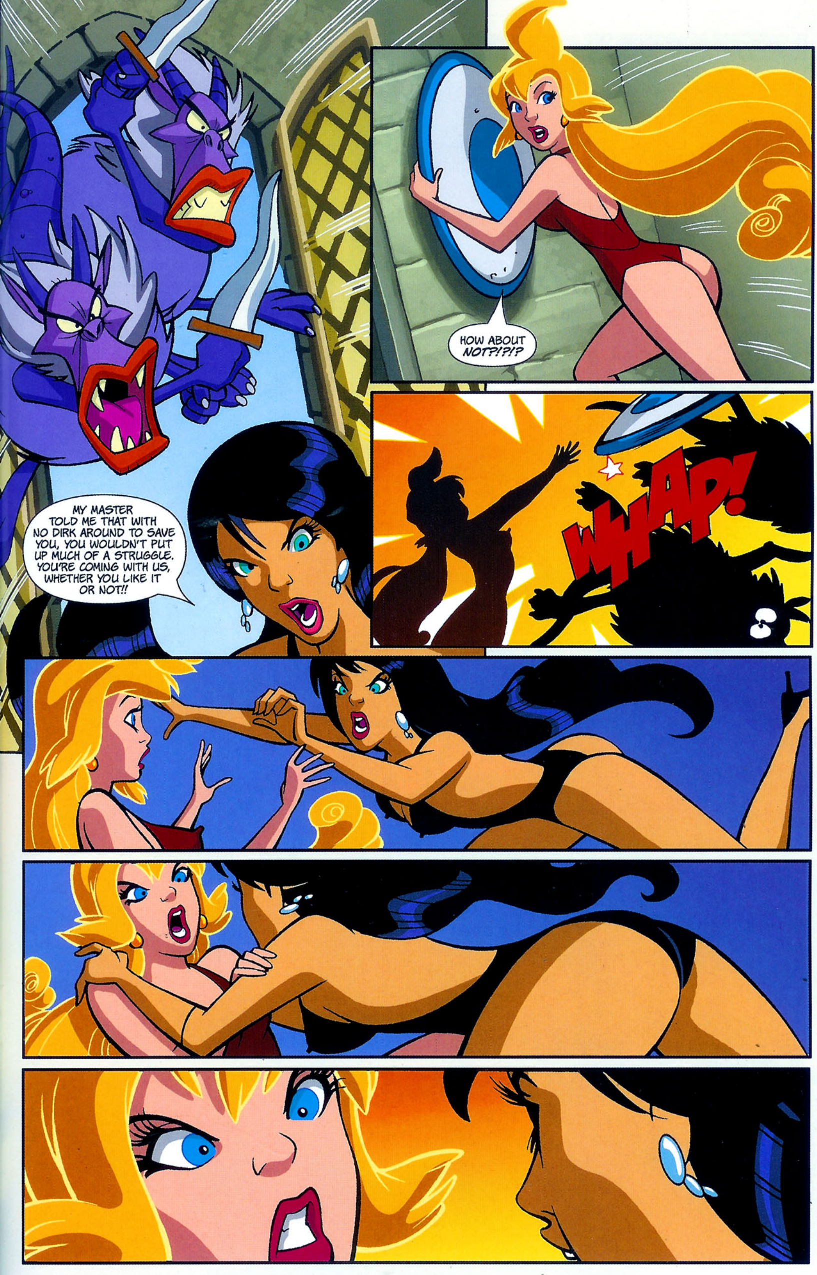

WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT AM I WEARING?
WE'RE FREE! FREE FROM SINGE!
IT'S TRUE! WE'RE FREE!
OH, DIRK!
SO BRAVE!
THANK YOU!
BLESS YOU, DIRK!
HOW CAN WE THANK YOU!
DIRK THE DARING!
ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS!
THANK YOU!
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT *SWORD!*
BACK OFF, LADIES. HE'S SPOKEN FOR!
HE'S MY *MAN.*
SWOOOSSH

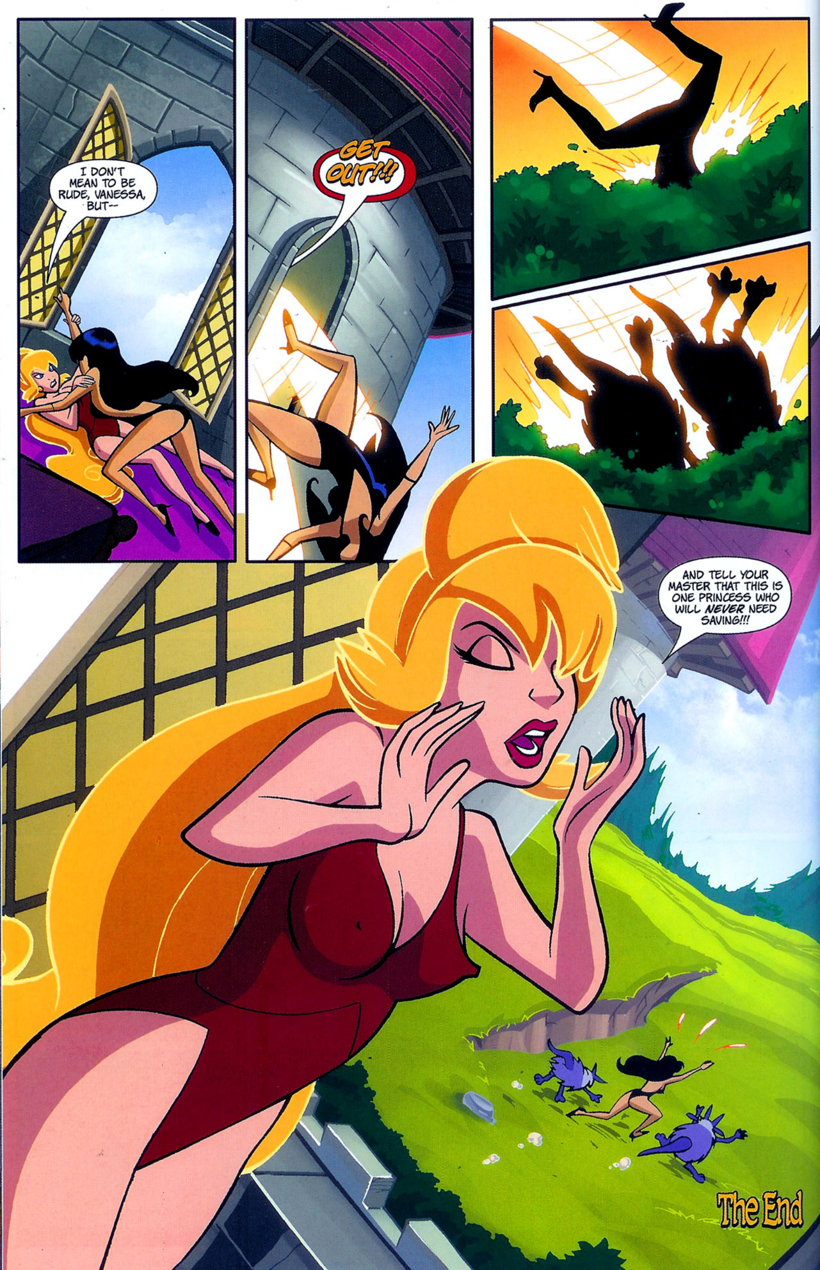

...AND THEN ONCE I GOT PAST THE MUDMEN, IT WAS FAIRLY EASY TO NAVIGATE THE DARK WATER RIVER. OH, LOOK, HERE WE ARE.
OH, DIRK. LOOK AT THAT SUNRISE. I WAS AFRAID I WOULD NEVER SEE THE SUN AGAIN.
WHEEEEWHEEEET
GOOD BOY, BERTRAM. GOOD BOY.
LAVA FIELDS ARE NO PROBLEM FOR A SMART HORSE LIKE YOU, HUH?
MILADIES, I PROMISE TO SEND A FULL ESCORT OF CARRIAGES TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE SAFETY OF THE KINGDOM.
OUR HERO!


YOU KNOW, DIRK, SINCE YOU WERE THE ONE THAT SLEW SINGE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU HAVE LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO HIS HORDES.
OH REALLY?
I SAID "HORDES." HIS TREASURE HORDES.
OH...
WELL YES, I'D SAY YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO HOW ARE WE GOING TO SPEND ALL OF THAT GOLD?
WE?
DIRK!
HAHA HAHAHA HA HA
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A BEAUTIFUL DAY.
I CAN'T THINK OF A PERSON I WOULD RATHER SPEND IT WITH.
ME NEITHER, DAPHNE. ME NEITHER.
Many tales have been told of the time when heroes faced magic and monsters without fear.
The legend of how the noble knight Dirk the Daring rescued his lady fair from the evil clutches of the Elder Dragon Singe spread far across the land.
Dirk and Princess Daphne's adventures did not end in the dark castle of the evil Singe. They would go on to face many dangers and trials in defense of their kingdom...
...but **that** is another story.
FIN.


It's time to tell how Dirk's great adventure began with the tale of...
MISS INDEPENDENT
FOR YEARS WE RULED THE DARK KINGDOM. FOR YEARS WE REIGNED SUPREME...BUT THEN *DIRK* THE DARING PUT AN END TO OUR PARADISE, KILLING SO MANY OF MY BELOVED CHILDREN. AND FOR THAT.....
HE MUST BE DESTROYED!!!! I WILL CRUSH HIM AND EVERYTHING THAT HE HOLDS DEAR!! LET'S START OFF SIMPLE, LADIES...
BRING ME PRINCESS DAPHNE!!!!


IT WAS REALLY SWEET OF DIRK TO SEND ME THIS DRESS FROM HIS LATEST ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF ETHERIA. EVEN IF IT IS *WAY* TO TINY. OH WELL, THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TRY IT ON.
PRINCESS DAPHNE? YOU HAVE A VISITOR. IT'S THE PRINCESS...
'NESSA!!
DAPHNE!!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE WE WERE KIDS!! HOW'VE YOU BEEN? DID YOU EVER HOOK UP WITH THE PRINCE YOU WERE ALWAYS AFTER?
OH, NO. IT TURNED OUT HE DIDN'T WANT A PRINCESS, HE WANTED TO *BE* A PRINCESS!!
EEEWWWW. SO WHAT BRINGS YOU BY?
DAPHNE, I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME AND LIVE WITH ME AND MY NEW MASTER IN THE LAP OF LUXURY. YOU'LL NEVER WANT FOR ANYTHING, AND YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY MORE WEALTH THAT YOU CAN IMAGINE. GOLD. JEWELS. IT'S A LITTLE SMOKEY, BUT YOU GET USED TO THAT AFTER AWHILE.
MASTER? UMM, NO THANKS HONEY, I ENJOY MY INDEPENDENCE.
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT!


MY MASTER TOLD ME THAT WITH NO DIRK AROUND TO SAVE YOU, YOU WOULDN'T PUT UP MUCH OF A STRUGGLE. YOU'RE COMING WITH US, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!!
HOW ABOUT *NOT?!?!?*
WHAP!


I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, VANESSA, BUT--
GET OUT!!!
AND TELL YOUR MASTER THAT THIS IS ONE PRINCESS WHO WILL *NEVER* NEED SAVING!!!
The End